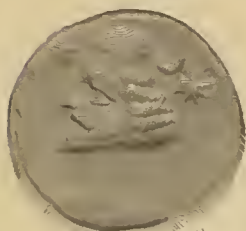
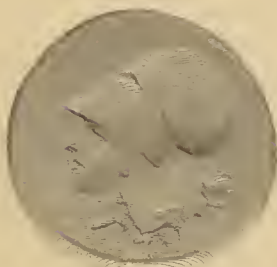
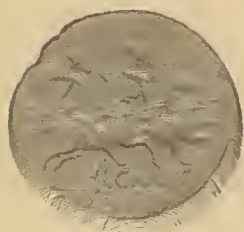


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U. S. Mint.
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PLEDGES OF HISTORY.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

COLLECTION OF COINS

BELONGING TO THE

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

MORE PARTICULARLY OF

THE ANTIQUE SPECIMENS.

BY WILLIAM E. DU BOIS,

ASSISTANT ASSAYER OF THE MINT, AND ONE OF THE
AUTHORS OF THE MANUAL OF COINS.

PHILADELPHIA:

C. SHERMAN, PRINTER.

1846.

* * * Printed labels having been required for the ancient coins, they were set up in such form as would suit that purpose, and also allow of the matter being arranged for a pamphlet. Most of the ensuing letter-press is the same as that pasted in the margin of the glass cases. By a private contribution, an edition of one hundred and forty copies, in the present form, has been struck off, for distribution to such societies and individuals as would be likely to appreciate the subject. It has also been adorned by a vignette, through the generosity of Mr. Saxton and Mr. Longacre, artists.

TO
ROBERT M. PATTERSON, DIRECTOR,
AND
JACOB R. ECKFELDT, ASSAYER,
OF THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE objects for which a collection of specimen coins has been made for the Mint, are now, it is presumed, in a good degree accomplished. Besides the appropriate endowment and ornament of the Institution, we have a permanent source of information on the whole subject of coinage; popular curiosity and educated taste are gratified; and researches into antiquities, arts, and history, are furnished with a new facility and stimulus.

The knowledge of coins is a study, almost a science; and in the old world is pursued with surprising eagerness. To Americans, it is a new subject; and while most of us can admire, few of us can understand, the numismatic curiosities of other countries and former ages. It seemed worth while, therefore, to take some pains to elucidate these specimens, especially the antiques, which are at once the most attractive and the most obscure.

The writer will save himself some criticisms, by saying, that he has had neither the skill, nor the zeal, to fulfil this duty in a technical and scientific method. The explanations which follow are intended not so much for those who *are*, as those who *are not*, familiar with ancient coins. And if, after all the pains that have been taken, some errors should appear, it must be remembered that the subject is peculiarly exposed to them.

If so trifling a performance were worth the formality of an inscription, the writer would do himself the honour to inscribe it to his superiors in office.

WILLIAM E. DU BOIS,

Assistant Assayer.

U. S. Mint, June, 1846.

COLLECTION
OF
COINS AND SPECIMENS
AT THE MINT, PHILADELPHIA.

THE suite of apartments in the Mint, appropriated to the exhibition of coins, ores, and national medals, occupies the front of the building in the second story, and measures sixteen feet wide by fifty-four feet long. Originally there were three rooms, connecting with each other by folding-doors; the removal of these has made one large saloon, with recesses, very commodious and suitable for the use to which it is applied. The eastern and western rooms are of uniform size and construction; the central one has a dome and skylight, supported by four columns; with a corresponding window in its floor (protected by a railing) to light the hall of entrance below.

The ancient coins are displayed in eight cases, mitred in pairs, and placed erect against the walls

in the wide doorways and the middle room. The modern coins are variously arranged ; part (including all those of the United States) being in a nearly level case which surrounds the railing above mentioned ; and part being in upright cases, disposed along the walls of the middle and west rooms. The ores, minerals, and metallic alloys, are placed in the west room ; in the eastern are shown the national and other medals, and the fine beams used for the adjustment of weights. All the cases are fronted with glass, and besides allowing an inspection of every specimen, present an agreeable coup d'œil on entering the room, especially by the middle door.

Visitors are admitted in prescribed hours, if attended by an officer or conductor of the institution.

The collection was commenced in June, 1838. Long before that date, however, Mr. Adam Eckfeldt, formerly Chief Coiner, led as well by his own taste as by the expectation that a conservatory would some day be established, took pains to preserve master-coins of the different annual issues of the Mint, and to retain some of the finest foreign specimens, as they appeared in deposit for recoinage. As soon as a special annual appropriation was instituted for this object, by Congress, (which was as soon as it was asked,) the collec-

tion took a permanent form, and from the nucleus above mentioned, has gone on in a continual course of augmentation ever since. It is now nearly as large as we expect or wish to have it, excepting, however, that specimens of new coinage, domestic or foreign, must be added as they appear.

For effecting this purpose we have had singular facilities. A great majority of the coins,—almost all of those not over three hundred years old,—have been culled from deposits, and consequently have cost us no more than their bullion value. They are, moreover, the choicest of their kind; and perhaps there are few cabinets, where so large a proportion of the pieces are in so fine preservation, as well the ancient as the modern. We have also the advantage of the correspondence and aid of gentlemen abroad, some of them officially related to our government, and all of them experienced in this business, and disposed to respond to our wishes. To specify this assistance, (as it deserves,) we have received from J. G. SCHWARZ, Esq., United States Consul at Vienna, the greater part of our ancient coins, being a private collection, the result of twenty years' assiduity; from JOHN P. BROWN, Esq., Drogoman to the United States embassy at Constantinople, we have a very con-

siderable proportion of the same, especially Greek and Byzantine, with a series of Ottoman coins ; (thus far at the usual market prices ;) from the late DR. GRANT, connected with the American Christian mission to the Nestorians, through his son, a small number of ancient and rare Persian coins ; from the honourable EAST INDIA COMPANY, a selection from the very scarce and curious antiques of middle Asia, chiefly Greek-Bactrian, of which they have lately come in possession, and in which branch they have almost the monopoly ; from C. STOKES, Esq., of London, (besides his influence in procuring the parcel last mentioned,) a number of scarce coins of England and the American colonies ; (these in a way of honorary exchange ;) a parcel of scarce Hindu coins was purchased of Mr. Morris, a missionary ; and from several individuals, mostly of this country, we have promiscuous specimens by donation. The disposition to place curiosities of this kind in a situation where they will be the most accessible, and, it is hoped, the most stationary, is thankfully commended.

By the annexed recapitulation, it will be seen that at the present time, the aggregate of specimens is, in gold, 605 ; silver, 2047 ; billon, (a mixture containing silver, but less than half,)

324 ; brass and copper, 822 ; platina, 4 ; in all, 3802.—Compared with the numismatic cabinets of Europe, our collection is indeed but a dwarf in size, and may stand second, in that respect, to some in this country. But it was not our purpose to amass an immense store of coins, the very multitude of which might deter from its examination. We are rather willing to be the first to set an example of moderation, in a pursuit which has its temptations to extravagance and excess.

AGGREGATE OF SPECIMEN COINS.

	Gold.	Silver.	Billon.	Brass and Copper.	Total.
ANCIENT.					
Roman,	79	368	127	240	814
Greek, &c.,	3	135		113	251
MODERN.					
United States,	107	163	2	113	385
Spanish-American States,	43	116		8	167
Brazil,	6	33		12	51
West Indies and Demerary,		45	1	5	51
Portugal and Port. Africa,	19	26		8	53
Spain,	13	52		10	75
France,	22	74	2	15	113
Netherlands and Belgium,	12	89		9	110
Britain,	33	130		27	190
Sweden and Norway,	3	24		10	37
Denmark,	11	43	10	9	73
Russia and Poland (Platina, 4),	9	40		9	62
Prussia and Westphalia,	19	38	5		62
Hanover and Brunswick,	19	42	6	2	69
Saxony,	9	39	8	6	62
Bavaria,	5	26	6	5	42
Smaller German States and towns,	86	120	35	6	247
Switzerland,	4	30	22		56
Austria, Lombardy, and Venice,	37	59	6	14	116
Tuscany,	2	36	8		46
Papal dominions,	8	40		6	54
Naples,	1	36		6	43
Other Italian States, and Malta,	10	28	1		39
Turkey and Greece,	20	56	21	22	119
Egypt, Barbary States, and S. Leone,	6	14	28	15	63
Persia, Bokhara, and Georgia,	5	9		9	23
Hindustan, and other East Indies,	12	48		92	152
Small silver medals,		86			86
British copper tokens, and counterfeits,	2	2	36	51	91
Amount,	605	2047	324	822	3, 22

REMARKS ON THE COINS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

THE interest excited by the examination of a curious coin, generally has reference to the following particulars. I. Its country, and date. II. Material, or composition. III. Denomination, and value. IV. The meaning of its legends and devices. V. The style of its execution ; and VI. Its present degree of rarity.

A few general explanations will here be offered, on each of those points, as they relate to the coins of the Roman Empire.

I. The coins, of which these are specimens, were the current money of ancient Rome ; an empire founded (by the usual reckoning) seven hundred and fifty-three years before Christ, and finally extinguished A. D. 1453. According to their respective places in this vast tract of time, they exemplify the rudeness and poverty of a petty colony, the grandeur of an immense dominion, and the decay and barbarism of its feeble remnants.

When we come to display these relics in their

historical order, only one considerable difficulty is presented. We know indeed that the rough pieces of base metal were the earliest currency of Rome, sufficient for a poor and warlike horde. The pieces of silver, bearing only the insignia and name of growing ROMA, must also be referred to an early period. But after that, and until the change from a republic to a despotism, the regulations of the coinage were such, as to make it impossible now to arrange the coins in chronological order. The operations of the mint were under the control of the Senate, and by that body entrusted to an official board, who seem to have had the power to enstamp such devices as they chose, but not to place the head or effigy of any individual on the coin, as was then the practice in neighbouring monarchies. This distinction, it may be observed, has prevailed down to this day; and it is to the precedent set by the republics of Greece and Rome, as well as to an obvious propriety, that we owe the rule which excludes from our coins the heads of the Presidents. But while this honour was denied, even to a consul or a conqueror, the Senate permitted, or overlooked, the insertion in the legend of the *name* of an officer of the mint, or of a consul, prætor, or provincial governor, for whose dis-

bursements any specific grant of bullion was wrought into coin ; or if not an individual name, a general family surname ; to which was frequently added some device to illustrate a famous action of the man, or of his ancestor. This evasion of the strict republican rule does not, however, give much aid to the numismatist, especially where the name and exploit were those of an ancestor, or where the same name belongs to persons of different eras. The whole difficulty in the case has, by common consent, long since been resolved into a classification of such pieces as FAMILY Coins, in opposition to Imperial ; and they are anomalously arranged in the *alphabetical order* of family names. The limit of this arrangement is not exactly defined, but it may be said to extend from almost the commencement of the use of silver, down to the days of Augustus ; although the rule in regard to portraits, was broken through by his predecessor. The *family coins* may therefore represent a period of two hundred and fifty years, terminating about the birth of Christ.

Augustus took charge of the gold and silver coinage as an imperial prerogative, leaving the brass still under the care of the Senate ; a most striking exemplification of the change of affairs,

and of the relative power of prince and people. This accounts for the S. C. (senatus-consulto) on the inferior moneys. After the time of Gallienus, about the middle of the third Christian century, even this remnant of Senatorial authority disappears.

In respect to the date of Roman coins, it is to be noticed, generally, that although the art of coining probably originated in Greece or Asia Minor, about the time of the foundation of the Roman colony, it appears not to have reached that obscure and rude people until the reign of Servius Tullius, near the close of the second century of Rome. Reckoning from that term as far downward as we can verify the coinage of the Lower Empire, which is not nearer to its overthrow than a century and a half, the range of date is more than eighteen hundred years. It may be added that there is no single series to be compared with it, in extent, variety, and completeness. There was scarcely an emperor, or usurper, though hurled from his seat in a fortnight or a month, who did not leave a diversity of monetary monuments for coming ages.

But more particularly, as to the date of any individual piece; it is ascertained, in many cases, by the year of the "tribunitian power" of the

Emperor ; thus, TR. P. VI. of Claudius, is equivalent to A. D. 46. It is solved also by the year of his consulship ; thus Vespasian Cos. III. answers to A. D. 71 : but as that title was not annually resumed like the preceding, this is a less direct means of information. The renewal of the inaugural vow, every five or ten years (VOT. V., VOT. X.) likewise determines the date. And when a victory, or other great event, is symbolized on the coin, its age is determined by the aid of history. But often we can only approach the date within a few years, that is, within the limits of a reign ; and the brevity of many of them, gives even more precision than an annual mark.

Notwithstanding the large use made of emblems in allusion to Christianity, from and after the time of Constantine, there is no instance of a Christian date, on a Roman coin ; nor indeed is it to be found on the coinage of any country, until a period subsequent to the fall of the Lower Empire.

II. THE MATERIAL, OR COMPOSITION, of Roman coins.—For about three centuries, Roman money consisted solely of bronze, a mixture of copper and tin ; at first cast in moulds, but after-

wards stamped, when other metals came into use. In the year of Rome 487 (B. C. 266) silver was introduced into the coinage, and gold, sixty years later; though it is believed that this last was of trifling amount, prior to the conquests of Julius Cæsar. In his time, bronze coins began to be displaced by copper, and brass; the latter, a composition of copper and calamine (ore of zinc), being wrought with some trouble, and much admired, is said to have been accounted worth twice as much as copper. This mixture disappeared about the close of the third Christian century, and thereafter copper alone was used for the inferior coinage.

The gold coin was maintained at almost absolute purity (990 to 995 thousandths) from first to last. The exceptions in our collection, are in the instance of Michael I. Rhangabe (A. D. 811–813), who, besides a bezant of good weight and fineness, issued one very inferior in both respects the fineness being not above 600; and again, in the reigns of Michael VII., Ducas, Romanus IV., and Nicephorus III., extending from 1067 to 1081, we have gold coins of the same inferior quality. They were restored by the next prince, Alexius I.

The silver coin, down to the reign of Augustus

inclusive, was also intended and considered as pure, and is found to be 950 to 985 thousandths fine. But in the ensuing reigns, there was a constant downward tendency, ending in an absurd and extravagant debasement. In the coinage of Nero, we find the quality of 82 per cent.; from Vespasian to Hadrian, it ranges from 78 to 85. The *very* base silver begins with Septimus Severus, about A. D. 200; and in the times of Elagabalus, and Philip, (say half a century farther on,) the coins contained not more than 40 to 45 per cent. of silver; the alloy being copper, with a portion of tin, to preserve the colour. In some cases it would seem as if the emperors of those troubled times resorted to the expedient of issuing copper with a mere plating of silver. But a salutary and permanent reform is to be dated from the reign of Diocletian, in the close of the third century. Silver of a good quality, say 91 to 96 per cent. fine, was used from that time, down through all the decline of the empire.* The silver coin appears, however,

* The degrees of fineness, above stated, are from our own trials; by assay, in the case of silver coins not valuable; by specific gravity, where the pieces were too scarce to be cut; a very good approximation for gold coins, and sufficient, for rare silver. Whatever difference there is between our rates, and those to be found in the

not to have been abundant, in the later times ; the currency chiefly consisting of gold for large payments, and copper for petty dealings. This is fairly inferred from the proportions in which the three kinds are now extant, or are from time to time recovered.

III. DENOMINATION and VALUE.—As it regards the denominations of Roman coins, the modifications and changes in a range of eighteen centuries, have occasioned so much perplexity, that the professed collectors pay but little attention to the subject, finding it more convenient to use their own technical terms ; such as, *gold* (or *silver*) *of the usual size* ; gold or silver *quinarius*, half-size ; *large medallions*—*small medallions* ; *first, second, and third brass* ; or *large, middle, and small brass*. The expressions are not very

Preface of Akerman on Roman Coins (and it is not important) is chargeable to the very unsteady character of the coins, even of the same reign ; possibly of the same year. The weights (hereafter given) are also our own, and show about the same correspondence with those given by Akerman.

We have found also, in the silver coins, a larger quantity of gold than would be suffered to remain in the present state of the *parting* art. It is small enough, however, to show that the ancients took some pains in that business.

definite, but sufficiently so for their purposes. So as to intrinsic value; whether a gold piece is 12 or 24 carats, whether a silver one is pure or base, is a circumstance which they hardly deign to inquire into; the degree of rarity is every thing.

But every intelligent reader of the history of Rome wishes to have some idea of the moneys according to their names, which he meets on every page; as also of their intrinsic value. A few details must suffice here.

As, *sestertius*, *denarius*, *aureus*, were the principal money-terms of the Romans.

The *as*, or *æs libralis*, “pound of brass” and its divisions, were the earliest coins. Originally the *as* weighed a Roman pound of 12 ozs. (equal to 12 oz. avoird.), but by successive reductions in a long course of years, it was brought down to half an ounce, before the Christian era. In this form it was often called by the diminutive term *assarium*. In the time of Constantine it had declined to 20 grains.

The *sestertius*, called also *nummus*, “the coin,” by eminence, was a brass coin, of about one ounce in the time of Augustus, and so continued for two centuries, when it began to lose weight, and is not easily to be traced.—The Romans were used to reckon by the *sestertius* for small sums, and by

the *sestertium* or great sesterce, (equal to 1000 sestertii), for large amounts. This last was only a money of account.

The *denarius* was the principal silver coin, weighing at first about 60 grains, and although rather lighter than the Greek drachm, passed as its equivalent. In the second Christian century it weighed 50 to 55 grains; in the third, 48 to 50. The fineness being also in a course of depreciation, the value of the piece, at first near 16 cents, fell, under the first emperors, to 14 or 15 cents; 11 or 12 in the times of Vespasian, Trajan, and the Antonines; and about 6 cents, under Elagabalus. Its character was somewhat restored by Diocletian; but it seems impossible, from the great fluctuation in weight, to put a value upon the denarius of the Empire after its partition.*

* It seems to be taken for granted, while it is by no means certain, that the English penny was based upon the later Roman denarius. The early pennies weigh nearly a pennyweight, and are worth six cents. The coin has since passed from silver to copper, and is worth only two cents. And (to trace the lineage down to our own day and country) by the debasement of moneys of account, the *penny* in the United States, though differing in different states, is so little above a cent, that it is common to use the two terms interchangeably. We may remark here, that the translation of the word *denarion* (denarius) into

From this coin we ascertain the value of inferior ones already named. It was at first worth ten times the *as*; but afterwards, and before the Christian era, was equal to 16 *asses*. It was also equal to four *sestertii*, or two *quinarii*. The *quinarius* was a silver coin, not very common.

The *aureus*, or gold coin, was double the weight of the *denarius*, under the first emperors, and intrinsically worth about five dollars; sometimes a quarter dollar more, but oftener less by that much. So it continued down to Pertinax, A. D. 192, as we find from our own specimens, and as we learn from other sources, until Severus Alexander, thirty years later. During that century the gold coinage partook somewhat of the confusion, and especially the depreciation, of the other moneys. The *aurei* in our cabinet, from Decius to Numerian, vary 20 grains (85 cents) one from another, and on the average are worth about \$3 25. From Diocletian to Constantine the Great, the *aureus*, now assuming the name of *solidus*, is about \$3 50. But it was again reduced, by the sons of Constantine, to 70 grains, or three dollars value; and, singularly enough,

penny, in the New Testament, although in one sense legitimate, gives a very incorrect idea.

maintained that weight, within a grain or two, during eight or nine centuries thereafter. The gold solidus, or *bezant* of the Byzantine Empire, was the currency of all Europe in the middle ages, and is often met with in the histories of those eventful times; and (except in one or two cases of gross deterioration of fineness) may be understood as a piece of nearly fine gold, about three dollars in value, or, more exactly, \$2 90.

IV. THE MEANING OF THE DEVICES naturally attracts attention, and has been made so much a study, that in most cases, in spite of much obscurity and abbreviation, it is pretty well known what was intended to be expressed, or symbolized. It might interest, or at least amuse, the unskilful, to see an antiquarian set himself to work upon such an unpromising row of initials as S. P. Q. R. P. P. OB C. S, and alight upon this solution—*Senatus Populus Que Romanus, Patri Patriæ, Ob Cives Servatos*, meaning, in extenso, that the senate and people of Rome thanked their emperor, the father of his country, for preserving the citizens; a compliment repeatedly found on the coins of Augustus Cæsar, and Caligula.* In

* This abbreviated style has but lately gone out of fashion; that is, since monarchs have contented them-

respect to the legends, nothing more need here be said, as they are generally copied into the ensuing descriptions, with an occasional translation, for those who are not accustomed to the extreme *density* of a Latin inscription.

Some idea of the devices may be obtained from the few specimens engraved in the frontispiece. The helmeted head of an imaginary deity, or personification of Rome, was the favourite obverse of the republican coinage, as the emperor's portrait was in the imperial days. On the reverse, we are continually reminded that the Romans were a warlike and an idolatrous people; the allusions being almost entirely to their gods, or their arms. This is the case as far as to Constantine, under whose authority Christianity was adopted as the state religion; from his time, (excepting in the brief reign of Julian, who made a determined effort to restore Jupiter and Apis,) we see no more of the ancient divinities, although there is an abundance

selves with fewer titles, and less glorification. Who would suppose that under the letters M. B. F. ET H. REX, F. D. B. ET L. D. S. R. I. A. T. ET E., found on the guineas of George III., there should be couched such a crowd of dignities as—"King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland; Defender of the Faith; Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg; Arch Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire"?

of the usual GLORIA ROMANORUM, and VICTORIA AUGUSTI, much more indeed than faithful history warrants. After a time, even military glory seems sunk in the superior claims of piety, and the rude coins of the declining Eastern Empire almost slight the reigning emperor, in a wretched delineation of the form of our Saviour, or of the Virgin, with such mottoes as JESUS CHRISTUS, REX REGNANTIUM.

It may here be added that the Byzantine coins offer some mysteries which have hitherto baffled the numismatists; especially the colossal letters M and K, on the reverse of the copper, for which there is no satisfactory interpretation.

V. STYLE OF EXECUTION.—The encomiums of amateurs prepare us for a severe disappointment, when we come for the first time to inspect the coins of Rome. Their appearance is much below what would be expected, from the reputation of Roman arts and civilization. There is, it is true, a wide diversity of skill exhibited in the die-sinking branch. Many of the heads are admirable, even to a cultivated taste and eye of modern times; and in general, as far down as to Constantine, there is a good deal of character, and evident approach to a real portrait, even where

the finish is rather barbarous. But the reverse side of the coin was evidently handed over to the apprentices, and, with occasional exceptions, is beneath criticism.

That Rome certainly had artists capable of exquisite engraving, we know from the long and large series of gems, still extant. The inquiry, why there should be such a difference between the gems and the coins, is most probably to be solved by such an answer as this, that the *masters* of the art, imported from Greece, were but few in number, and the public taste did not exact much skill for the coinage, the principal office of which was to pass from hand to hand in barter, and not to be kept for show. It has been so, almost down to our own day. The guineas and shillings of the last century, the Spanish dollars and fractions of this, are not worthy to stand as specimens of the general state of arts.

From and after the sons of Constantine, the style of execution continually deteriorates; and we are left to wonder that a people not destitute of letters, could tolerate such a burlesque of coinage. Though there were but few of the emperors who were so fortunate as to transmit their throne, with their face, to a son or near relation, the portraits present a long gallery of striking similitudes.

On taking up a large brass coin of the great Justinian, the oracle of lawyers, we seem to behold the visage and the workmanship of an untutored Indian.

The other, and more mechanical parts of the mintage (and this will apply to Greek as well as Roman), allow of no higher praise. Unless coins are so shaped as to lie flat, and admit of being piled one upon another, and render apparent any diminution by filing or clipping, they are not well fitted for their proper uses. These objections apply very generally to ancient coins. Other faults, chargeable to the want of machinery and metallurgic skill, need not be dwelt upon.*

VI. THE PRESENT DEGREE OF RARITY of Roman coins is worth a passing notice. No one need suppose that there was any scarcity of such coins in their own day, and especially in the flourishing era of the earlier emperors. There was a vast population,† and no paper money; and yet the scale of prices was not materially different from what it is in Europe at this day. “A penny a day,” that is, a denarius, is as good pay for a

* Manual of Coins, page 12.

† Gibbon estimates the population of the Roman Empire at one hundred and twenty millions, in the time of Claudius.

labourer in Switzerland, as it was in Judea. Julius Cæsar could, on a single occasion, afford a present or donative to each foot-soldier, of about eight hundred dollars; and to each equestrian four times that sum.* Nero spent some eighty millions of dollars in this way; and when the vacant empire was put up at auction, a bid equal to eight hundred dollars to each pretorian soldier, secured it to Didius Julianus.

The activity of the mints, and the variety of dies or devices for the coins, are most astonishing. There is no parallel to it, in our own day. Let it suffice to say, that there are now extant, of the Emperor Commodus (A. D. 180–192), of such only as are considered rather rare, sixty-eight varieties of gold, sixty of silver, and a still larger number in brass; while of his successor Pertinax, who reigned but three months, there are gold coins of eight different dies, silver of twelve, and brass of seventeen. The whole catalogue of Roman dignitaries, whose coins remain to the present time, embracing emperors or “Augusti,” vice-emperors or “Cæsares,” empresses, and

* A prodigious outlay, if we consider the size of the army. The peace establishment of Hadrian was thirty legions, supposed to count three hundred and seventy-five thousand men; with a probable naval force of seventy-five thousand more.

usurpers, numbers two hundred and seven names; counting from Julius Cæsar down to the subversion of the Eastern and Western divisions of the Empire. Of the consular or family coins, there are about twenty-five hundred varieties. Altogether, from the earliest *as* to the latest *bezant*, there must be at least ten thousand different types.*

It will therefore occasion no surprise, that though so many centuries have elapsed, and nearly every other monument of this wonderful empire has perished, there are coins enough remaining to make up a great many cabinets, public and private, and to form a regular market, and an established branch of trade.† The tariff of ancient coins is adjusted to their interest and rarity, and is as well understood and regulated as the prices in any kind of business. Formerly it was sufficient to marshal them under five or

* Mionnet, de la rareté et du prix des Medailles Romaines, Paris, 1827; also Akerman, an English work on the same subject, 1834.

† The banks of deposit possessed by the ancients, were such as were likely to be broken only by the ploughshare, or the rail-road excavations, of ages then to come. Roman coins are thus in a constant course of discovery, and are found in Britain and Hindustan, as well as through the vast space between.

six degrees or divisions of scarceness; more modern assiduity and refinement have doubled the number. Thus we have first, VC, very common; then C, common; then S, scarce; then R 1, and so on to R 8, or eighth rarity; which last distinction belongs to an *unique*, and perhaps goes as far as a quadruplicate, or one of four. The highest degree which our collection can boast, if it be worth a boast, is the sixth rarity; but it is in a very few instances.

The present degree of rarity of ancient coins, to speak in a general way, is to be inferred from the market price of the commonest kinds. Silver coins of Augustus and Tiberius for example, if in good preservation, can be had in Europe for twice or thrice their intrinsic value; say thirty to fifty cents. The drachms of Alexander the Great, though now near twenty-two hundred years old, may be obtained in Constantinople for fifty cents, thrice the value of the silver. The copper coins of Constantine and his sons are so abundant, that a person may supply himself with them at four or five cents a piece, or less by the quantity, and run no risk of being imposed upon with counterfeits.

But if the fancy of the amateur runs upon the

rarer types, he may soon lavish a fortune. And here the writer will hazard the opinion, that there is a great deal of false taste, as well as extravagant outlay, in this particular. To tell the truth, collectors too often prize a coin less on account of its own historical, artistical, or intrinsic value, or all these combined, than on account of its mere rarity. There is a rage to possess a coin which nobody else possesses. Persons to whom this subject is new, will be amazed to hear, that a silver coin of Maxentius, of rare reverse, brought £18, or 87 dollars, at a public sale in London; and that a small gold coin of Allectus, an obscure and transient usurper in Britain (A. D. 293–295) concerning whom history has hardly thought it worth while to record a line—brought £74, or 358 dollars;* and to crown all, that, at the famous “Trattle Sale” in 1832, a trial-piece, engraved by Thomas Simon for Charles II., “a very fine specimen,” sold for £225, or 1089 dollars.† This may be regarded as suitable sport

* Akerman, under *Maxentius* and *Allectus*.

† Jewitt, Hand-book of British Coins.—It was in the same spirit, that a copy of Boccacio’s Decameron, printed in 1471, was contended for at a London auction in 1812, by three noble lords; and was knocked off to one of them for £2260, equal to *eleven thousand dollars*.

for nobles of princely fortune, in search of imaginary “gems,” but certainly would do no credit to the taste and judgment of sober amateurs.

I have ventured to depart from numismatic usage in one particular, of no great importance. The coins of Greek cities, of a date subsequent to their incorporation into the Roman empire, and bearing little else than the imperial head and titles, have been withdrawn from the department of Greek republican coins, and placed with the Roman, under their respective emperors. Their proper position would be a nice point to argue, if it were worth an argument. But (without summing up the reasons) I apprehend that the democratic taste will justify a distinction between the potin of Antioch, and the silver of Athens.

The collection contains a small number of acknowledged counterfeits, nearly all of imperial coins, and all from the manufactory of Mr. Becker, of Berlin. This eminent amateur of coins has conceived and effected the project of supplying collectors with *copies* of such pieces as by their rarity and high price are hardly to be

procured; and for this purpose, aided no doubt by the prospect of a lucrative trade, has caused to be engraved the vast number of 510 dies, for the coinage of 255 different specimens, chiefly antique. These are, without doubt, the best efforts at counterfeiting, and the least dishonest; but a little familiarity is sufficient to detect them, as a slight reflection is enough to reprobate them. They came to us as part of a large lot, and are retained, as showing what the originals are, and as affording facilities for acquiring the art of discrimination, a very important part of the collector's work. It is a satisfaction to know, that the utmost skill of man is inadequate to the confounding of truth and error, where diligence and experience are set in opposition.* It should be added, that these pieces are mostly of the usurpers, and "emperors for a day," and therefore of little historical interest.

The copies or counterfeits by Becker, are designated by *cb*, in the description.

* A full account of "Die Becker'schen falschen Münz Stempel" is contained in a pamphlet by Prof. von Steinbüchel, Vienna, 1836. The general price of his silver coin is 1½ florins of Austria, or 73 cents; gold pieces are from 7½ to 12 florins.

R is an abbreviation for *reverse*.

When the metal is not specified, it is to be understood as the same as that of the coin immediately previous.

Where the reverse has been omitted, it was to avoid repetition or unimportant detail.

DIVISION I.

ERA OF THE REPUBLIC.*

ALL the coins of this era, except the earliest bronze, and the earliest silver, (which last are known by the simple inscription ROMA,) are arranged under family names. As far as known, there are about one hundred and seventy-five families represented in coins still extant, of which one hundred and twenty-six are in this collection. As an example of the mode of arrangement, the pieces which bear the names A. POST. (Aulus Postumius) and C. POST. (Caius Postumius) are placed together, under the title POSTUMIA. If the cognomen only is given, as in the case of BRVTVS, on various types of Marcus Junius Brutus, it is nevertheless referred to the well-known family name, JUNIA. And by the same rule, certain

* This word is used in opposition to the *imperial* era, and in the modern sense. Even under the most grinding despotism, Rome always flattered herself with the title of "Republic." The coins of Julian celebrate the *Securitas Reipublicæ*.

coins of Julius Cæsâr are retained in the family JULIA.

The types in this series are not generally of the most common kind, and would repay the inspection of a practised numismatist. For the more general reader, we have occasionally interrupted the roll, to call attention to a specimen of historical interest.

- 1.
- 2.
3. TRIENS, or piece of four ounces, indicated by the four dots, under the rude figure of a ship. Very early coinage. Bronze.
- 4, 5. SEXTANS, of two ounces. Bronze.
6. UNCIA, ounce. Small size. Br.
- 7, 8. TRIENS. Small. Br.
9. SEXTANS, of Campania. Br.
- 10, 11. ROMA, silver denarii.
12. ROMA, silver quinarius.
13. ABURIA. This, and the following specimens in this division, are all silver denarii, except where otherwise mentioned.
14. ACCOLEIA.
- 15, 16. ACILIA.
17. ÆLIA.
- 18, 19, 20. ÆMILIA.

21. AFRANIA.

22. ALLIA.

23, 24, ANNIA. (The latter in brass.)

25. ANTESTIA.

26. ANTIA.

27. ANTONIA.

(The legionary coins of Mark Antony, usually placed here, have been transferred to the next division.)

28. APRONIA. Brass.

29, 30. AQUILLIA.

R of No. 30, shows a woman kneeling before a soldier; underneath, SICIL. This commemorates the suppression of a noted revolt of the slaves in Sicily, by Manlius Aquillus.

31. ASINIA. Brass.

32. ATILIA.

33. AURELIA.

34. BŒBIA.

35, 36, 37. CÆCILIA.

38. CÆCINIA. Brass.

39. CÆSIA.

40. CALIDIA.

41. CALPURNIA. R. A horseman riding at full speed; an ear of wheat above; legend L. PISO FRUGI. In the year of Rome 507, there was a great scarcity of food in the city, and

Calpurnius Piso was despatched to Africa to purchase corn. This trivial honour is magnified by no less than one hundred and thirty varieties of denarii.

42, 43. CARISIA.

44, 45, 46. CASSIA.

47. CESTIA. *cb.*

48. CIPIA.

49, 50, 51. CLAUDIA.

52. CLAUDIA. *cb.*

53. CLOVIA. Brass.

54, 55. CLOULIA. The latter a quinarius.

56. COELIA.

57. CONSIDIA.

58. COPONIA.

59, 60, 61. CORDIA.

62 to 65. CORNELIA.

66. CREPERIA.

67, 68. CREPUSIA.

69. CUPIENA.

70. CURIATIA.

71. CURTIA.

72. DIDIA.

73. DOMITIA.

74, 75. EGNATIA.

76. EGNATULEIA.

77. EPPIA.

78. FABIA.

79. FANNIA.

80. FARSOLEIA.

81. FLAMINIA.

82. FLAVIA.

83, 84. FONTEIA.

85. FUFIA.

86. FULVIA.

87. FUNDANIA.

88, 89, 90. FURIA.

91. GELLIA.

92. HERENNIA.

93. HORATIA. *cb.*

94. HOSIDIA.

95, 96. HOSTILIA. In a battle with the Vientes, (in the early days of the republic,) the Roman troops were seized with a panic, and in his extremity Tullus Hostilius, their leader, offered his vows to Pallor and Pavor, the gods of *fear* and *trembling*. Two terrified heads display these attributes. On the reverse is the name of L. Hostilius Saserna, a descendant of Tullus, and an officer of Julius Cæsar; for this person they were evidently coined.

97. JULIA.

98 to 101. JUNIA. No. 98, a remarkable type, is a coin of Marcus Brutus, and commemorates

the fact that his ancestor, L. Junius Brutus, was the first consul of Rome. He is seen guarded by lictors, and preceded by a herald.

102 to 105. LICINIA.

106. LIVINEIA.

107. LUCILIA.

108, 109. LUCRETIA.

110. LURIA. Brass.

111. LUTATIA.

112. MÆCILIA. Brass.

113. MÆNIA.

114. MAIANIA.

115. MAMILIA.

116. MANLIA.

117 to 119. MARCIA.

120. MARIA.

121, 122. MEMMIA.

123, 124. MINUTIA.

125. MUSSIDIA.

126. NÆVIA.

127. NONIA.

128. NORBANUS.

129. NORBANUS. *cb.*

130. NUMONIA. *cb.*

131. OPEIMIA.

132-134. PAPIA.

135. PAPIRIA.

136. PEDANIA.
137, 138. PETILLIA.
139. PETRONIA.
140. PINARIA.
141. PLÆTORIA.
142. PLANCIA.
143–145. PLAUTIA.
146. POBLICIA.
147, 148. POMPEIA.
149, 150. POMPONIA.
151, 152. PORCIA. The Porcian law, declared in the year of Rome 453, exempted Roman citizens from the indignity of scourging. R of No. 152 represents a citizen protected by a magistrate from the lictor, and underneath, the word *Provoco*, “I appeal.” (See in the New Testament, Acts xxii. 24–27, where the Apostle Paul availed himself of this immunity.)
153–155. POSTUMIA.
156, 157. PROCILIA.
158, 159. QUINCTIA.
160. RENIA.
161. ROSCIA.
162. RUBRIA.
163, 164. RUSTIA.
165. RUTILIA.
166. SATRIENUS.

- 167. SCRIBONIA.
- 168. SEMPRONIA.
- 169. SENTIA.
- 170. SERGIA.
- 171-173. SERVILIA.

174. SICINIA.

175. SILIA.

176. SPURILIA.

177. SULPICIA.

178. TERENTIA.

179. THORIA.

180. TITIA.

181, 182. TITURIA. R of the first represents two soldiers throwing their shields upon a prostrate female. The city of Rome was betrayed to the Sabines by Tarpeia, on condition of receiving "what they wore on their left arms," intending their gold bracelets. As soon as the city was taken, the soldiers, to fulfil their vow, and punish her perfidy, threw upon her their bracelets *and shields*, and she was crushed to death. The place was afterwards famous as the "Tarpeian Rock." R of the second represents the Romans carrying off the Sabine women. The family Tituria traced their descent from the Sabines.

183. TREBANIA.

184. TALLIA.

185-188. VALERIA. (The last is brass.)

189. VARGUNTEIA.

190. VETTIA.

191. VETTURIA.

192-194. VIBIA.

195. VIBIA. *cb.*

196-198. VOLTEIA.

199-202. Uncertain. Two are of base metal.

DIVISION II.

JULIUS CÆSAR TO TRAJAN (INCLUSIVE).

B. C. 49, TO A. D. 117.

I. CAIUS JULIUS CÆSAR was born in the year of Rome 654 (B. C. 100.) Created triumvir, with Pompey and Crassus, at the age of forty, and Dictator at fifty-two. He was made Perpetual Dictator B. C. 44, and assassinated in the same year—aged fifty-six.

1. Gold. Head of Julius. DICT(ator) PERP(etuo.) PON(tifex) MAX(imus). R. Head of Caius (Octavius).
2. Silver. Æneas carrying Anchises.
3. Dictator the second time.
4. Head of Julius veiled. Perp. Dictator.
5. Julius crowned. Perp. Dictator.
6. Pontifical Instruments. R. Elephant.
7. Brass. JULIUS DIVOS.
8. Silver, of Marcus Brutus the conspirator. Head of the elder Brutus.
9. Brass, of Pompey the Great. R. PIUS. IMP(erator.) Prow of a vessel.

II. Caius Octavius, afterwards AUGUSTUS, grand nephew of Julius Cæsar, was born B. C. 63. He was joined with Mark Antony and Lepidus in the govern-

ment, at the death of Julius; became sole master of the empire, B. C. 31; received the title of Emperor two years after; and died A. D. 14, aged seventy-six.

11. Gold. AUGUSTUS DIVI F. IMP. X. R. ACT(ium). Commemorates that decisive battle.
12. Gold, of Sextus Pompey, naval commander, reduced by Augustus B. C. 36. MAG(nus) PIUS IMP(erator) ITER(um). R., heads of Pompey the Great, and Cneius. PRÆF(ectus) CLAS(sis) ET ORÆ MARIT(imæ), "Commander of the fleet and sea-coast." Ex S. C. *cb.*
13. Silver, same as the preceding. *cb.*
14. Silver of the same, different type. *cb.*
15. Mark Antony; Cæsar on the reverse.
16. Antony; legends on both sides made up of his titles.
17. Lepidus; Cæsar on the reverse.
18. Augustus. DIVUS JULIUS.
19. The same. R. SIGNIS RECEPTIS.
20. Aqueduct on the reverse.
21. R. Horses on a triumphal arch. IMP. CÆSAR.
22. R. Pontifical instruments. Cos. ITER. "Consul a second time."
23. S. P. Q. R. OB CIVES SERVATOS.
24. Fine head of Augustus, without legend. R. DIVI F(ilius), "the son of God," probably in reference to the deified Julius.

25. R. Horseman at full speed. AUGUST.
26. A Bull. IMP. X., *i. e.* the title of Imperator, Emperor, conferred the tenth time. It was then merely a military distinction.
27. A quinarius. R. ASIA RECEPTA.
28. Brass. R. Within a wreath, AUGUSTUS TRIBUNIC(ia) POTEST(ate).
29. DIVUS AUGUSTUS PATER. The deceased Augustus sainted, or deified. R. S. C. (Senatus-Consulto).
30. Silver, of Agrippa, son-in-law of Augustus. *cb.*
31. Brass, of Agrippa. Consul third time.
32. Silver. Caius and Lucius, grandsons of Augustus.
- 35 to 54. Twenty silver coins of Mark Antony, the series struck for the respective legions under his command. The reverse shows a ship, or military ensigns, with the number of the legion, as LEG. VI., &c. They were probably used in payment of the troops, and otherwise served to display the power of the general. Four of the series are wanting.

III. TIBERIUS CÆSAR, son of the Empress Livia, was adopted by Augustus, A. D. 4, and succeeded to the empire A. D. 14, at the age of fifty-six. While on a sick bed, he was smothered at the instigation of Caligula, which finished a cruel reign of nearly twenty-three years. (A. D. 37.)

55. Gold. TI. CÆSAR DIVI. AUG. F(ilius) AUGUSTUS. R. PONTIFEX MAXIMUS.
56. The same type in silver.
57. Base silver or *potin* struck at Alexandria in Egypt ; legends in Greek.
58. Large brass. An altar, with figures of Victory.
- 59, 60. Brass, with the usual legends, and R. S. C.
61. Silver, of Drusus, son of the Emperor. (Poisoned by his wife, A. D. 23.) R. Head of Tiberius. *cb.*
62. Brass, of Drusus. R. S. C.
63. Livia, mother of Tiberius. SALUS AUGUSTA. (Died A. D. 29, aged eighty-six.)
64. Silver. Antonia, daughter of Mark Antony, and mother of the Emperor Claudius. ANTONIA AUGUSTA. (Poisoned, A. D. 38, aged seventy-six.) *cb.*
65. Brass, of the same.
66. Silver. Germanicus, son of Antonia, and nephew of Tiberius, who adopted him. (Poisoned, A. D. 19, by the Gov. of Syria.) *cb.*
- 67, 68. Brass, of the same.
69. Large brass. Agrippa, sen., wife of Germanicus, and grand-daughter of Augustus. (Exiled, and starved to death by Tiberius A. D. 33, aged forty-eight.)

70. Brass. NERO ET DRUSUS, CÆSARES. Sons of Germanicus, and brothers of Caligula. (Nero died in exile, A. D. 30; Drusus was starved by order of Tiberius, A. D. 33.)

IV. Caius Cæsar, called CALIGULA (from his military dress), was adopted by his grand uncle Tiberius; whom he succeeded, A. D. 37, at the age of twenty-five. His oppressive reign was cut short by an assassin, A. D. 41.

72. Silver. C. CÆSAR AVG. R. S. P. Q. R. P. P. OB C. S., *i. e.* “the Senate and People of Rome, to the Father of his Country, for preserving the citizens.”

73. Brass. Usual legend. R. Vesta, seated.

V. Tiberius CLAUDIUS, nephew of Tiberius, was born at Lyons, B. C. 10, and succeeded to the Empire A. D. 41. He married his niece Agrippina the younger, A. D. 49, by whom he was poisoned, A. D. 54.

79. Gold. TI. CLAUD. CÆSAR. AVG. P. M. TR. P. VIII. IMP. VI. R. S. P. Q., &c.

80. Silver. Same legend; with GERM(manicus.) *cb.*

81. Brass. R. LIBERTAS AVGVSTA.

82. Silver. Agrippina, wife of the emperor, and mother of Nero. AGRIPPINÆ AVGVSTÆ. Head of Claudius on the reverse. (She was killed by order of Nero, A. D. 59, aged forty-three.)

83. Agrippina and Nero, face to face. *cb.*

VI. NERO, stepson of Claudius, was declared *Cæsar*, A. D. 50, at the age of thirteen years, and succeeded to the empire at seventeen. Having become odious through his excesses, and hearing that a successor was elected, he slew himself, A. D. 68.

87. Gold. NERO CÆSAR AUGUSTUS. R. JUPPITER (so spelt) CUSTOS—"Jupiter the Keeper."

88. Silver. NERO CÆSAR. Youthful profile.

90. Large brass. NERO CLAUD. CÆSAR, &c. ROMA on the rev. Supposed to have been struck on the rebuilding of Rome, after the fire.

91. The temple of Janus closed. PACE P(opulo) R(omano) TERRA MARIQUE PARTA JANUM CLUSIT.

92. Coined at Alexandria, in Egypt. Greek.

93. Coined at Alexandria, in Cilicia. Greek.

VII. GALBA, born B. C. 3, was governor of Spain under Nero; created emperor by the army and senate, A. D. 68; murdered by the guards, after a reign of seven months, A. D. 69.

95. Gold. IMP. SERV(ius) GALBA AUG. R. S. P. Q. R., &c.

96. Silver. R. LIBERTAS PUBLICA.

97. Brass. Same reverse.

98. Silver. CLODIUS MACER. PROPRAE(tor) AFRICÆ. This provincial governor declared independence upon the death of Nero, but

was reduced; and put to death by order of Galba. *cb.*

VIII. OTHO, governor of Lusitania, (now Portugal,) took part in the revolt against Nero. After following in the train of Galba for a short time, he procured his death, and was proclaimed as his successor. But the empire had to be disputed with Vitellius; and having suffered a defeat, Otho killed himself, A. D. 69, after a reign of only three months, and in his thirty-seventh year.

103. Silver. IMP(erator) OTHO CÆSAR AUG(ustus) TR(ibun.) P(otestate). R. SECURITAS P(opuli) R(omani). By the looks of the head, the artist seems to have aimed to confirm the historical fact that the emperor wore a wig.

104. R. PONT(ifex) MAX(imus). "Sovereign pontiff."

105. R. VICTORIA OTHONIS. Otho was thrice victorious before his overthrow at Brixellum.

No brass coins of this emperor have come to light.

IX. VITELLIUS, proclaimed emperor by the legions in Germany, was successful against Otho, and acknowledged by the Senate, A. D. 69. After eight months of gluttony, he fell by the hands of the soldiers, aged fifty-six.

111. Gold. A(ulus) VITELLIUS GERM(anicus), IMP(erator), AUG(ustus), TR(ib.) P(ot.) R. A tripod, with a globe and dolphin on the top, and

an eagle beneath ; XV VIR SACRIS FACIENDIS. Commemorates his offering sacrifice to the shade of Nero, his patron.

112. Silver. Same as the preceding.

113. R. FIDES EXERCITUM. Two hands joined, in token of the *faith of the army*.

114. Heads of the two children of Vitellius. LIBERI IMP., &c. *cb.*

X. VESPASIAN was created governor of Judea by Nero, A. D. 66, and became emperor on the death of Vitellius; died A. D. 79, in his seventieth year, having reigned ten years.

119. Gold. IMP. CÆSAR VESPASIANUS AUG. R. CONS(ul) ITER(um) TR(ib.) POT(estate).

120. Silver. R. Pontifical Instruments. AUGUR. PONT. MAX.

121. JOVIS CUSTOS.

122. VICTORIA AUGUSTI.

123. A *congius* (a dry measure of about a half peck) with ears of wheat standing out of it. Expresses his distribution of congiaries, or gifts of corn, to the Roman populace.

124. A veiled female beside a palm-tree. JUDÆA DEVICTA. Commemorates the destruction of Jerusalem, A. D. 70, by Titus.

125. Consul the seventh time.

126. Figure of Capricorn, under which sign Ves-

pasian was born. DIVUS AUGUSTUS VESPA-
SIANUS. Apotheosis of the deceased emperor.

127. DIVA DOMITILLA AUGUSTA. Domitilla was
married to Vespasian, A. D. 40, and died before
his accession. She was afterwards deified. *cb.*

XI. TITUS succeeded his father, A. D. 79, at twenty-
eight years. A change of character made him a good
prince; but the Romans enjoyed the benefit of it only two
years. His death was not without suspicion of poisoning,
by Domitian.

135. Gold. T. CÆSAR IMP. VESPASIAN. R.
Cos. III. (Fourth year of his consulate.)

136. Silver. CERES AUGUST.

137. A soldier standing on the head of a captive.

138. A statue on a pillar; usual legends.

139. Capricorn.

140. Curule chair.

141. Brass. ÆQUITAS AUGUSTI.

142. Brass. CERES AUGUST.

143. Silver. Julia, daughter of Titus, and after
his death a concubine of her uncle Domitian.
On the R. is a peacock, the emblem of female
deification; which honour was conferred on her
by Domitian. *cb.*

144. Brass, of Julia.

XII. DOMITIAN, brother of Titus, succeeded to the
empire at the age of thirty, A. D. 81, and reigned fifteen

years. He fell by a conspiracy of his household; and though universally detested, received the usual honour of deification. He was the last of "the twelve Cæsars," a classification more popular than proper.

151. Gold. CÆS. AUG. DOMIT. COS. III. R.

PRINCEPS JUVENTUTIS. The title "Prince of Youth" was given by his father, A. D. 69.

152. Silver. R. A dolphin and anchor; usual titles.

153. Copy of an equestrian statue.

154. Victory holding a buckler.

155. Cos. XIII. LUD(OS) SÆC(ulares) FEC(it).

Alludes to his celebration of the secular games.

156. Brass. The same subject. Priest and musicians.

157. Silver. Domitia, wife of the emperor.

XIII. NERVA was called to the empire by the Senate, in his sixty-fourth year, A. D. 96. His virtuous but feeble administration was strengthened by the association of Trajan. After a reign of two years only, he was allowed the distinction of dying a natural death, and was voted a deity. A. D. 98.

159. Gold. IMP. NERVA CÆS. AUG. P(ontifex) M(ax.) TR(ib.) POT(estate). R. Pontifical instruments. Cos. III. PATER PATRIÆ.

160. Silver. The same type.

161. AEQUITAS AUGUST(i).

162. FORTUNA AUGUST(i).

163. Two hands joined. *CONCORDIA EXERCITUM*. Expresses the ratification by the army of his election ; now more important than the voice of the Senate.

164. Brass. The same type.

XIV. *TRAJAN*, born in Spain, A. D. 53, succeeded *Nerva* A. D. 98, and reigned nineteen and a half years. His military exploits, his energy, and leniency (except toward the Christians) endeared him to the Romans as the best of all their emperors, and they early conferred on him the title of *OPTIMUS PRINCEPS*, which appears on most of his coins. Died in Cilicia, A. D. 117.

167. Gold. *IMP. TRAIANO OPTIMO AUG. GER-(manicus), DAC(icus), P(ont.) M(ax.) TR. P(otest.)—R. Cos. VI. P(ater) P(atriæ) S. P. Q. R.* Germany and Dacia were among his conquests.

168. Silver. Three military ensigns. "The senate and people of Rome, to the best prince."

169. *R.* *Ceres*, with legend as above.

170. Equestrian statue.

171. Victory, writing on a shield.

172. *PARTHICO, P. M., &c.* Expresses his victories in Persia.

173. Front of the Forum, a superb building erected by Trajan. *cb.*

174. The emperor on a throne, with attendants,

assigning kingdoms to three persons below and before him. REGNA ADSIGNATA. *cb.*

175. PARTHICO DIVI TRAIAN, &c.

176. Victory. (A quinarius.)

177. Large brass. A crowd of titles in the legends.

178. Gold. Plotina, wife of Trajan. (Died A. D. 129, and was one of the few empresses sans reproche.) R. Vesta seated. *cb.*

179. Silver. Marciana, sister of Trajan. R. CONSECRATIO. *cb.*

180. Gold. Matidia, daughter of Marciana, and mother-in-law of the Emperor Hadrian. Plotina on the *rev.* *cb.*

181. Brass. Greek coin of Trajan and Plotina (Perinthus in Thrace.)

DIVISION III.

HADRIAN TO ELAGABALUS—A. D. 117-222.

XV. HADRIAN, through the management of the Empress Plotina, succeeded upon the death of Trajan, A. D. 117. He is noted as the travelling emperor; his long and prosperous reign being spent in marches and journeys to all parts of the empire. His coins, which are numerous, afford a medallion history of his life. Died in his seventy-second year, and twenty-second of his reign, A. D. 138.

1. Gold. HADRIANUS AUG. Cos. III. Pater Patriæ. R. LIBERALITAS AUG(usti). The emperor was liberal in largesses to the people.
2. Silver. R. AFRICA. A female figure, representing Africa, recumbent. Commemorates his visit there.
3. HISPANIA. Figure of Spain, recumbent.
4. RESTITUTORI HISPANIÆ. The emperor raising a female (Spain) from the ground.
5. AEGYPTOS. Emblems of Egypt.
6. NILUS. The god of the Nile, recumbent.
7. RESTITUTORI GALLIÆ. The emperor raising prostrate Gaul.
8. Ceres.
9. Cos. III. Moon and star.
10. The emperor marching before three soldiers.

DISCIPLINA AUG(usti). The army in Germany becoming relaxed in discipline, the emperor visited them, and inured them to hardships by his own example. *cb.*

11. Brass. R. HILARITAS P(opuli) R(omani). A female, holding a stalk of wheat; citizens at her feet. The "hilarity" of the ancient lazaroni depended very much on the supplies of corn, drawn from the industrious provinces.
12. SALUS AUGUSTA. A female making offerings to a serpent, in behalf of the emperor's health.
13. Silver, of Sabina, wife of Hadrian. R. VENERI GENETRICI.
14. SABINA AUGUSTA, HADRIANI AUG. R. CONCORDIA AUG. Commemorates the making up of a quarrel between the emperor and his wife. They lived so unhappily, that she destroyed herself, after a union of thirty-seven years.—A. D. 137.
15. Silver, of Aelius Cæsar. He was adopted as Hadrian's successor, but died before him, A. D. 138.
16. Base silv. HAΔPIANOC CEB. Hadrianus Augustus. Coined at Cesarea in Cappadocia.

XVI. ANTONINUS PIUS succeeded Hadrian, by whom he had been adopted, A. D. 138; and reigned twenty-three years. In contrast to the policy of his pre-

decessor, he never travelled farther from Rome than to his villa; but the vast empire was governed with unexampled wisdom and mildness, and it was an age of peace and plenty. His devotion to the gods, and to the memory of his patron, early procured him the surname of *PIUS*; which became a standing title to all succeeding emperors. The *Christian* religion was openly tolerated. He died A. D. 161, in his seventy-fifth year, universally lamented.

22. Gold. ANTONINUS AUG. PIUS. P. P. R. TR.
POT. COS. II.

23. Silver. R. ITALIA. A woman sitting on a globe.

24. R. The youthful head of Aurelius, who was adopted at the age of seventeen, A. D. 138.

25. R. Aurelius more advanced.

26. R. A female at an altar. PIETAS.

27. DIVUS ANTONINUS. R. CONSECRATIO.

28. R. A funeral pile. CONSECRATIO.

29. R. An altar. Divo Pio. The honour of deification was eagerly conferred by the Senate.

30. Large brass. R. Same as No. 12.

31. Brass. R. Romulus and Remus sucking the wolf.

32. Gold. DIVA FAUSTINA. Deification of the elder Faustina, wife of Antoninus; born A. D. 105, died 141.

33. Silver. Faustina veiled; DIVA FAUSTINA.
R. AETERNITAS.

34. R. JUNONI REGINÆ.

35. R. AUGUSTA.

36. DIVA FAUSTINA PIA. R. A peacock; CON-
SECRATIO.

37. Brass. R. CONSECRATIO. These and other types show the honours paid by the good emperor to her memory, though while living she occasioned him no little grief and scandal.

38. Brass. Greek coin of Antoninus; Laodicea.

XVII. MARCUS AURELIUS Antoninus, and LUCIUS VERUS, brothers-in-law, who had been of the rank of *Cæsars* for twenty-three years, succeeded A. D. 161, as *Augusti*, colleague emperors. Though the former was a Stoic philosopher, and the latter a debauchee, they lived without discord, and (as their coins show) were much engaged with the barbarians. The immense empire was now beginning to tremble with its own weight.—Venus died 169, in his fortieth year. Marcus ruled alone for eleven years more, and died at the age of fifty-nine. He was greatly esteemed for his virtues; and “the age of the Antonines” is justly esteemed as a bright one in Roman history.

43. Gold. AURELIUS CÆSAR AUG. PII. F. R.
TR. POT. III. COS. II.

44. Silver. The same legends.

45. ANTONINUS AUG. ARMENIACUS. R. A female on the ground, personifying captive Armenia.

46. R. Victory holding a shield, with the motto VIC. PAR. Records the success of the Romans in Parthia.

47. Brass. **R.** A trophy, and two captives seated;
DE SARM. The victory over the Sarmatians.
48. **PROFECTIO AUG.** Emperor on horseback.
49. Silver. **FAUSTINA AUGUSTA. R.** A female
 with an infant in her arms, and two other children
 at her feet; **FECUND(itas) AUGUSTÆ.** She
 was the daughter of Antoninus Pius, and wife
 of Marcus; died A.D. 175. Her dissolute life
 could not exempt her from deification.
50. **R. SÆCULI FELICIT(as).** "The happiness of
 the age."
51. A fine head of this handsome woman. **R.**
CONCORDIA.
52. Brass. **R. LÆTITIA.**
53. Silver. **L. VERUS AUG. ARMENIACUS. R.**
 Sundry usual titles.
54. **L. VERUS ARM. PARTH. MAX.** (The two
 emperors were somewhat disposed to conquer
 per alium, and triumph in persona.)
55. **DIVUS VERUS. R. CONSECRATIO.**
56. Silver, of Lucilla, daughter of Marcus, and
 wife of Verus. **R. VOTA PUBLICA.**
57. **R. DIANA LUCIFERA.**

XVIII. **COMMODOUS**, son of Marcus Aurelius, was
 admitted to the rank of Cæsar at five years of age, and
 of Augustus at sixteen; and succeeded to the empire in
 180, at nineteen years. He gloried chiefly in fighting

as a gladiator in the public games, and assumed the name of Hercules. An end was put to his cruelties by assassination, A. D. 192.

64. Gold. M. COMMODUS ANTON(inus) AUG. PIUS.

R. The customary titles.

65. Silver. R. HILARITAS.

66. The usual titles.

67. L. ÆL(ius) AUREL(ius) COMM(odus). R.

The club of Hercules; HERCULO ROMANO AUGU(sto).

68. Brass. R. Sacrificial instruments; PIETAS AUG. Records the piety of Commodus.

69. Gold. CRISPINA AUGUSTA. R. VENUS FELIX.

This empress was banished for gross misconduct, and afterwards put to death, 183; and was even refused an apotheosis. *cb.*

70. R. An altar; DIS GENITALIBUS.

XIX. PERTINAX, the son of a woodchopper, rose to the highest posts in the army and state, and was declared emperor upon the death of Commodus, A. D. 192. His virtues were conspicuous; but the iron age of Rome had commenced, and a good ruler could scarcely keep his place. He was murdered by a few soldiers, after a reign of three months, and in his sixty-sixth year.

78. Gold. IMP. CÆS. P. HELV(ius) PERTIN(ax)

AUG. R. PROVID(entia) DEOR(um). Cos. II.

79. Same legends as the gold. *cb.*

80. Brass. Same legends.

XX. DIDIUS JULIANUS, a wealthy citizen of Rome, hearing that the army had offered the empire at public sale, ran to the camp and outbid a competitor. He was acknowledged by the Senate; and, on the approach of Severus, was deposed and beheaded by the same authority, after a reign of two months, and at sixty years of age, A. D. 193.

85. Gold. IMP. CÆS. M. DID. JULIAN. AUG. R.
P. M. TR. P. Cos.

86. Silver. R. RECTOR ORBIS. The emperor holding a globe. *cb.*

87. Manlia Scantilla, empress. R. JUNO REGINA. "Juno, the queen."

88, 89. Didia Clara, daughter of Julian. R. HILAR(itas) TEMP(orum). The "hilarity of the times" was precarious and intermittent. (89, *cb.*)

90. The same type in brass.

XXI. SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS, a native of Africa, and commander in Germany, was proclaimed emperor by his legions, on hearing of the death of Pertinax; and marching to Rome, received the homage of the Senate. He was successful against two powerful competitors, and reigned eighteen years, dying at York, in Britain, A. D. 211, at the age of sixty-five. His surname expressed his character—severe, and caring little for the opinion of others; yet, on the whole, such a ruler as the times required.

93. Silver. SEVERUS PIUS AUG. R. A female seated on a lion; INDULGENTIA AUG(usti) IN

CARTH(aginem).—The occasion was his investing Carthage with peculiar privileges.

94. R. RESTITUTOR URBIS. “Restorer of the city.” Severus built temples, and restored the secular games in Rome.

95. R. Trophy and captives. Legend imperfect.

96. Brass. Usual titles in the legend.

97. Silver, of Julia Domna, wife of Severus. R. VENUS GENETRIX.

98. R. MATER DEUM.

99. R. JUNO.

100. VESTA.

101. Brass, of Julia. MATER DEUM.

102. Greek coin (brass), of Severus; Corcyra, now Corfu.

103. The same; coined at Cesarea, in Cappadocia.

PESCENNIUS NIGER, and CLODIUS ALBINUS, the former governor in Syria, the latter in Britain, started with Severus in the race for the empire, with powerful armies to back them. Niger was subdued in one year, and Clodius in four, after an obstinate conflict.

104. Gold. IMP. CÆS. C. PESC(ennius) NIGER JUSTUS AUG. R. CONCORDIA, P. P. *cb.* (The original of this was unique, and was stolen from the cabinet of the King of France, with

other pieces ; and has no doubt been melted down. It is proper to add, that on account of the P. P., to which Niger was not entitled, the original itself was suspected.)

105. Silver. R. FORTUNA REDUCI.

106. Moon and stars. SÆCULI FELICIT(as). *cb.*

107. Greek coin of Niger. *cb.*

108. Same, in brass. *cb.*

109. Silver. D. CLOD. SEPT. ALBIN(us) CÆS.

110. R. MINER(va) PACIF(era). Cos. II.

111. Brass, of Clodius. R. Illegible.

XXII. CARACALLA and GETA, sons of Severus, succeeded as joint emperors, A. D. 211. Their mutual hatred ceased only upon the murder of Geta, in the next year ; and Caracalla acted the tyrant alone, for five years longer. He died by the hand of one of his soldiers, at the instigation of Macrinus, while on the march into Persia ; A. D. 217—aged thirty years. (*Caracalla*, being a nickname only, never appears on the coins ; the true name of this emperor was Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.)

113. Silver. IMP. ANTONINUS AUG. R. JOVI
CONSERVATORI. “To Jupiter the Preserver.”

114. ANTONINUS PIUS AUG. BRIT(annicus). R.
PROFECTIO AUG(usti). Caracalla was with the
army in North Britain ; and figures in Ossian,
as “Caracul.”

115. ANTONINUS PIUS AUG. GERM(anicus). A
quiet retreat through Germany, brought him
this victorious surname.

116. R. LÆTITIA PUBL(ica). "The public joy."
 117. R. VICTOR(ia) ANTONINI AUG. (These four are large denarii, which began to be coined in this reign.)
 118. Brass. Usual titles, in the legend.
 119. Silver. PLAUTILLA AUGUSTA. (Plautilla was married to Caracalla, A. D. 202; afterwards exiled, and put to death A. D. 212.)
 120. R. VENUS VICTRIX.
 121. R. The emperor and empress joining hands; PROPAGO IMPERI.
 122. Brass, of Plautilla. PIETAS AUG.
 123. Silver. GETA CÆS(ar) PONT. COS. R. VOTA PUBLICA. R. PRINC(eps) JUVENTUTIS. (These two were coined before Geta became emperor.)
 124. SEPT. GETA PIUS AUG. BRIT(annicus). R. Usual titles.
 125. Brass, of Geta. PONTIF. COS. II.
 126. Greek coin (brass) of Caracalla, struck at Byzantium.

XXIII. MACRINUS, having, for his own safety, procured the murder of Caracalla, was deliberately elected emperor by the army in Syria, A. D. 217. He was killed the next year, after suffering a defeat by Elagabalus.

127. Silver. IMP. C(æsar) M(arcus) OPEL(ius) SEV(erus) MACRINUS AUG. R. FIDES MILITUM. "Faith of the soldiers."

128. **AEQUITAS** **AUG(usti)**. “Equity of the emperor.”
129. **Brass. R.** The emperor in a quadriga, or car with four horses.
130. **Silver, of DIADUMENIANUS**, son of Macrinus ; created Cæsar and afterwards Augustus, at nine years ; shared the fate of his father. *cb.*
131. **Brass. R. PRINC. JUVENTUTIS.**

XXIV. **ELAGABALUS**, or Heliogabalus, a boy-priest in the Temple of the Sun, in Syria, and of distant relation to Caracalla, was commended by his mother to the Roman soldiery there, as a son of that emperor, and by them proclaimed, in opposition to Macrinus. His faction having succeeded, the youth was acknowledged by the Senate, and reigned about four years. He was killed A. D. 222, at the age of about eighteen years, after a course of debauchery and cruelty that is scarcely credible. His real name was Avitus Bassianus, and his imperial name Marcus Antoninus ; but he is only known by the designation above, which was the Syrian title of the sun, as a deity.

135. **Silver. IMP. ANTONINUS PIUS AUG. R.**
The emperor sacrificing ; **INVICTUS SACERDOS AUG.** “The unconquered priest, emperor.”
136. **R.** The emperor on horseback. **PROF(ectio)**.
Probably his “march” to Rome.
137. **R. SACERDOS SOLIS ELAGAB(ali) dei.** He gloried in this character, and introduced the worship of the sun at Rome.
138. **Large silver. R. SALUS ANTONINI AUG.**

139. Brass. The emperor in a car. Consul IIII.
141. Large silver. JULIA MÆSA AUG. The grandmother of Elagabalus, and by him created a member of the Senate. R. PIETAS AUG.
142. Silver, of Julia Mæsa. R. PUDICITIA.
143. The same. R. FECUNDITAS.
144. JULIA SOÆMIAS AUG. R. VENUS CELESTIS.
Julia Soæmias was the mother of the emperor, and was killed at the same time with him.
145. JULIA PAULA AUG. R. The emperor and empress joining hands. CONCORDIA. She was the first wife of Elagabalus, and repudiated in about a year, notwithstanding this "concord."
146. Paula, with Elagabalus on the reverse. *cb.*
147. JULIA AQUILIA SEVERA. R. CONCORDIA.
A vestal virgin, taken by Elagabalus as his second wife; repudiated to make room for a third, but afterwards recalled.
148. Greek coin, brass, of Elagabalus; struck at Marcianopolis in Mæsia.
149. Same; struck at Nice, in Bithynia.

DIVISION IV.

SEVERUS ALEXANDER TO CLAUDIUS

GOTHICUS, A. D. 222—270.

XXV. SEVERUS ALEXANDER, the cousin of Elagabalus, and adopted by him, succeeded A. D. 222, at the age of seventeen, and reigned thirteen years. The downward course of things was somewhat retarded by this wise and virtuous administration; but was renewed by the barbarous murder of the emperor, and the elevation of the chief conspirator.

1. Silver. IMP. ALEXANDER PIUS AUG. R.

SPES PUBLICA.

2. R. MARS ULTOR. "Mars, the Revenger."

3. IMP. C. M. AUR. SEV. ALEXAND. AUG. R.

Usual titles.

4. Brass. R. The emperor in a car. Usual titles.

5. Silver. SALL(ustia) BARBIA ORBIANA AUG.

The emperor on the *rev.* She was the wife of Alexander. *cb.*

6. R. CONCORDIA AUGG.

7. Brass, of the same. CONCORDIA AUGUSTORUM.

8. Silver. JULIA MAMÆA. AUG. R. FELICITAS

PUBLICA. She was the emperor's mother, and influential in the government. Killed with him.

9. R. VENUS VICTRIX.

10. R. A female holding an infant. VENERI FELICI.

11. R. VESTA.

12. Brass. FELICITAS PUBLICA.

13. Brass, Greek, of Alexander. Byzantium.

XXVI. MAXIMIN I., the Thracian giant, succeeded the prince whose murder he had procured. His successes against the Germans could not atone for his cruel temper, and the Romans declared for GORDIAN and his son, who had assumed the purple in Africa. They were quickly subdued by the forces of Maximin; but in marching for Rome, to encounter a new pair of emperors, he was murdered by his own soldiers, A. D. 238. He had reigned three years, and was aged sixty-five.

15. Silver. IMP. MAXIMINUS PIUS AUG. R. PAX AUGUSTI.

16. R. VICTORIA GERM(anica).

17. R. FIDES MILITUM. Perhaps alludes to his rescue by the soldiers, when he was sticking fast in a marsh, in Germany.

18. Brass. R. SALUS AUGUSTI.

19. R. Military standards.

20. Same R. as No. 17.

21. Silver. DIVA PAULINA. R. A peacock carrying the deceased empress to heaven. CON-

SECRATIO. There was some ground for this compliment.

22. JUL(ius) VERUS MAXIMUS CÆs(ar). R. PIETAS AUG. This prince was of an opposite disposition to his father, but shared his fate, A. D. 238.

23. Brass, of the same. R. PRINCIPI JUVENTUTIS.

XXVII. BALBINUS, a senator, and PUPIENUS, a soldier, both advanced in years, were chosen in Rome to succeed the two Gordians, while Maximin was still living. His defeat confirmed them in the empire, which they governed wisely; but a mutiny of the soldiers brought them to a violent end, after reigning only about a year, A. D. 239.

29. Large silver. IMP. CÆS. D(ecimus) CÆL(ius) BALBINUS AUG. R. Two hands joined; PIETAS MUTUA AUGG. "The devotion of the emperors to each other."

30. R. PROVIDENTIA DEORUM. *cb.*

31. IMP. CÆS. M(arcus) CLOD(ius) PUPIENUS AUG. R. Two hands joined; PATRES SENATUS—(which may mean the emperors, as "fathers of the senate," or the senate, as "the conscript fathers").

32. Small silver of Pupienus. VICTORIA AUGG. *cb.*

33. Brass, of Pupienus. Legend imperfect.

XXVIII. GORDIAN III., a youth of only fifteen years, succeeded to the empire by common consent, and his reign displayed courage and moderation. He was undermined, however, by the arts of Philip, the pretorian prefect; and the support of the army being withdrawn, he was easily cut off, A. D. 244, having reigned six years.

36. Small silver. Youthful head. IMP. GORDIANUS PIUS FEL(ix) AUG. R. Usual titles.

37. Large silver. R. LÆTITIA AUG. N.

38, 39. R. JOVI STATORI. Figure of Jupiter Stator.

40. R. SAECULI FELICITAS.

41. ORIENS AUG. The emperor flattered as the "rising sun."

42. JOVI CONSERVATORI. "To Jupiter the Preserver."

43. MARS PROPUG(nator). "Mars, the champion."

44. Usual official titles.

45. L. Brass. SECURITAS PERPET(ua).

46. As No. 38.

47, 48. Silver, of Sabina Tranquillina, empress; married to Gordian in 241. (No. 48, *cb.*; No. 47 doubtful.)

XXIX. PHILIP, an Arab chief, afterwards a Roman general, proved an excellent ruler, notwithstanding the base means of his promotion; and was in high esteem with the senate and people. His son, Philip II., though but a child, was associated in the empire. Their reign, with their lives, was cut short by the successful revolt of

the army in Pannonia (Austria) under Decius. Philip was killed, A. D. 249, in his forty-sixth year, and sixth of his reign. The younger Philip was aged thirteen.

50. Small silver. IMP. M(arcus) JUL(ius) PHILIPPUS AVG. R. The emperor on horseback; ADVENTUS AVGG. "Arrival of the emperors."

51. Large silver. R. SECURIT(as) ORBIS. "The safety of the world."

52, 53, 54, 55. R. SÆCULARES AVGG. These coins severally bear on the rev. a lion, a stag, a goat, and a column with Cos. III.; and another, of the empress, bears a hippopotamus. The secular games were celebrated with magnificence, A. D. 247, and third year of Philip, as being the 1000th year of Rome, by the computation of Varro. Other coins of the same date (not in this collection) bear the legend MILLIARIUM SÆCULUM, the "millennium" of Rome.

56. R. ÆQUITAS AVGG.

57. VIRTUS AVG.

58. An elephant and his rider; ÆTERNITAS AVGG.

59. Base silver. Greek coin of Philip; Antioch in Syria.

60. Brass. R. A stag; SÆCULARES AVGG.

61. FELICITAS TEMP(orum). "The happiness of the times."

62. Large silver. OTACIL(ia) SEUERA AVG. R. PIETAS AUGUSTÆ. She was married to

Philip some years before he became emperor, and survived him a very short time. She was of pure character, and is said to have professed the new religion, and to have caused her son, the younger Philip, to be baptized. The emperor was not (as some have affirmed) the first Christian emperor, but he suppressed the persecutions.

63. Otacilia. R. SÆCULARES AUGG. A hippopotamus, with open mouth. The display of wild animals formed a part of these games.
64. Brass. MARCIA OTACIL(ia) SEVERA. R. PIETAS AUGUSTÆ.
65. Large silver. M. JUL. PHILIPPUS CÆS. R. The young Philip holding a globe and spear; PRINCIPI JUVENT(utis).
66. Base silver. Greek coin of the younger Philip; Antioch in Syria.
67. Brass, of the same. R. Imperfect.
68. The same. SÆCULARES AUGG. COS. II.
69. Large silver. IMP. TI(berius) CL(audius) MAR(ius) PACATIANUS AUG. R. SALUS AUGG. The name of this usurper is not found in history, but he is referred to this date by another legend (not in this collection), ROMÆ ÆTER. AN. MILL. ET PRIMO. "Year 1001 of eternal Rome." His coins are found only in France. This is one of several instances in which Ro-

man coins discover the omissions of historians. *cb.*

70. Pacatianus. *R.* Hercules in conflict with the lion; *VIRTUS AUG.* "Courage of the emperor." *cb.*

XXX. TRAJAN DECIUS, sent to suppress a mutiny in Pannonia, placed himself at the head of it; and having vanquished his master, was acknowledged as emperor. His reign of two years was spent in warring against the Goths, and destroying the Christians; the former of whom had become formidable to the state, as the latter had to the state religion. He fell in battle A. D. 251, aged sixty years.

71. Gold. *IMP. C. M. Q. TRAIANUS DECIUS AUG. R.* A figure holding an ensign; *GENIUS EXERC. ILLYRICIANI.* The Illyrian army promoted him.

72. Silver. *ADVENTUS AUG.* His arrival at Rome.

73. DACIA. The battle-ground.

74. *GEN. ILLYRICI.*

75. Brass. *PANNONIA.*

76. *R.* As No. 71.

77. Gold. *HER(ennia) ETRUSCILLA AUG. R.* *PUDICITIA AUG.* This empress is known only by her coins, and by an inscription.

78. Silver; same rev.

79. Brass; same rev.

80. Greek coin of Etruscilla. R. SAMION. Island of Samos.
81. Silver. Q. HER(cnnius) ETR(uscus) MES(sius) DECIUS NOB(ilis) C(æsar). This prince perished in battle with his father.
82. Brass, of the same.
83. Silver. CN. VALENS HOSTILIANUS QUINTUS AUG. This prince survived his father, was made colleague to Gallus, and died in a few months, either of plague, or poison.
84. R. SECURITAS AUGG. (This legend seems a sarcasm upon the times, and especially upon this prince.)

XXXI. GALLUS, commanding on the Danube, was proclaimed by his army, and elected by the Senate, successor to Decius. A precarious peace was purchased of the Goths; but the empire was afflicted with plague and famine. Gallus was killed by his own soldiers, when about to march against Æmilian, A. D. 254; having reigned less than three years; and aged forty-seven.

85. Silver. IMP. C. C. VIB. TREB(onianus) GALLUS AUG. R. LIBERTAS PUBLICA.
86. R. APOLL(ini) SALUTARI. (An appeal to Apollo, the god of physic, to stay the plague.)
87. R. VICTORIA AUGG.
88. Brass. R. VIRTUS AUGG.
89. Greek coin of Gallus. Antioch in Syria.
90. Silver. IMP. CÆS. VIB. VOLUSIANUS AUG.

R. CONCORDIA AUGG. Volusian was associated with his father in the empire, and perished with him.

91. R. As No. 88.

92. Brass. R. Same as preceding.

93. Silver. IMP. ÆMILIANUS PIUS FELIX AUG.

R. SPES PUBLICA. Æmilian, a Moor by birth, and governor of Mæsia, having successfully resisted a Persian invasion, was proclaimed emperor by his troops, and was acknowledged after the death of Gallus, but survived his elevation only three months.

94. Silver. C. CORNELIA SUPERA AUG. R. JUNO

REGINA. This lady, wife of Æmilian, is known only by her coins. *cb.*

95. R. VESTA. *cb.*

XXXII. VALERIAN, of illustrious family, and pure character, was promoted to the empire upon the fall of Gallus and Æmilian, A. D. 254, being then sixty years of age. His troubled reign was terminated in 260, by his being taken prisoner by the King of Persia, in whose hands, after much cruel treatment, he died.

99. Silver. IMP. C. P. LIC(inius) VALERIANUS AUG. R. VICTORIA AUGG.

100. ORIENS AUG.

101. DIVA MARINIANA. Wife of Valerian. R. A peacock, bearing the departed spirit. CONSECRATIO.

102. R. Peacock, with wings outspread. CON-
SECRATIO.

103. Brass ; same as the preceding.

104. Greek coin, brass, of Valerian ; Tarsus in
Cilicia.

XXXIII. GALLIENUS was adopted into the empire A. D. 254, at the age of thirty-six ; and became sole emperor upon the captivity of his father, an event which gave him no concern. In this reign, "heaven and earth seemed to concur in heaping afflictions upon the empire." Usurpers seized upon the fairest provinces, and maintained their ground ; the barbarians grew bolder in their irruptions ; and the plague, raging every where and lingering for years, cut off a vast proportion of the people. Gallienus allowed nothing to interfere with his ease and pleasures, except a campaign against the Germans, and another against a rebel general, in which he perished, A. D. 268.

107. Silver. GALLIENUS P.F. AUG. R. VICT(oria)
GERMANICA.

108. R. GERMANICUS MAX(imus).

109. A quinarius. VICTORIA AUG. *cb*.

110. Divo Pio. Head of Antoninus Pius. (Gallienus caused the issue of a series of coins in billon, bearing the heads of his most eminent predecessors. There is a vast variety of dies in this reign, without any improvement in the art.)

111. Small brass. R. JOVI CONSERVATORI.

112. Billon, of Salonina, empress.

113. R. VENUS FILIA.

114. Brass. VESTA.

115. Billon, of Saloninus Valerian, son of Gallienus. R. PRINC. JUVENT.

116. R. PIETAS AUG.

117. Quinarius. Same reverse. *cb.*

118. A boy riding a goat. JOVI CRESCENTI.

119. Brass, of the same. R. A funeral pile.

USURPERS. During the feeble reign of Gallienus, the purple was assumed by about twenty generals, in different parts of the empire. Most of these were soon overthrown; but there were two extensive monarchies, which stood out against Gallienus and his immediate successor. The first, created by the famous Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra, included Syria and Egypt, and lasted six years, 267-73. The other, originated by Postumus, was composed of Gaul, Spain, and Britain, and continued fifteen years, 258-73. All these provinces were eventually restored to Rome, by the bravery and address of Aurelian.

POSTUMUS, governor of Gaul, assumed the title of emperor, 258; was killed by his troops, 267.

VICTORINUS, a general of Postumus, was associated with him, 265; and was also killed by his soldiers, 267.

LÆLIANUS, competitor of Postumus, was also killed by his own troops.

MARIUS, successor to Victorinus, was killed almost as soon as crowned.

TETRICUS, a senator, and governor of Aquitaine, succeeded to this monarchy, and reigned undisturbed six years. In 273, he abdicated, with his son; and both retired to Rome for the remainder of their lives. A vast variety of coins was issued by these emperors, or usurpers.

120. Plated brass, or copper. IMP. C. POSTUMUS P. F. AUG. R. Hercules and Postumus, face to face. FELICITAS AUG.
121. Base silver. Front face of Postumus. R. INDULG(entia) PIA POSTUMI AUG. *cb.* It is uncertain what this "pious indulgence" was.
122. Profile; same R. *cb.*
123. Billon. SÆCULI FELICITAS.
124. A quinarius. VICTORIA AUG. *cb.*
125. Billon or copper; same R.
126. PAX AUG.
127. Plated brass. R. VIRTUS AUG.
128. R. JOVI PROPUGNATORI.
129. Large brass. Heads of Postumus and Hercules side by side, and on the reverse, face to face. *cb.*
130. Plated brass. A woman recumbent, personifying the Rhine; SALUS PROVINCiarUM. "Safety of the provinces."

131. Silver. IMP. C. VICTORINUS P. F. AUG.
R. VIRTUS AUG. *cb.*
132. Brass, or copper. R. PROVIDENTIA AUG.
133. R. PAX AUG.
134. Silver, of Marius. R. CONCORDIA MILI-
TUM. *cb.*
135. R. SÆ(culi) FELICITAS. *cb.*
136. Silver, of Lælianus. R. TEMPORUM FELI-
CITAS. *cb.*
137. Gold, of Tetricus the elder. Usual titles. *cb.*
138. Silver. R. PAX ÆTERNA. *cb.*
139. Heads of Tetricus senior and junior. R.
ÆTERNITAS AUGG. *cb.*
140. Copper, of Tetricus senior. PIETAS AUG.
141. SALUS AUG.
142. Gold. C. PES(uvius) TETRICUS CÆSAR.
R. SPES AUGG. *cb.*
143. Silver. Same reverse. *cb.*
144. Copper. R. PIETAS AUGUST(orum). Sa-
crificial utensils.
145. R. SPES PUBLICA.
146. R. PRIN. JUVENTUTIS.

XXXIV. CLAUDIUS II., surnamed GOTHICUS, succeeded Gallienus, as the dying choice of that prince, and with the consent of the army and Senate. By a brave onset he repulsed the daring Goths, which gained him the above surname. Two years after his accession, and at the

age of fifty-five, he was carried off by the plague, A. D. 270.

148. Gold. IMP. CLAUDIUS PIUS FELIX AUG.

R. VICTORIA AUG.

149. Silver. R. PAX EXERC(ituum). *cb.*

150. Small brass. FIDES EXERCIT.

151. R. LÆTITIA.

152. Silver, of QUINTILLUS, brother of Claudius, who assumed the empire upon his death, but retained it only a few days.

153. Small brass, of the same.

DIVISION V.

AURELIAN TO THE END OF THE WESTERN EMPIRE. 270-475.

XXXV. AURELIAN, general of cavalry, succeeded A. D. 270. His reign of five years was employed in clearing the empire of the numerous foes, foreign and domestic, who had, for years, been threatening its existence. He was entirely successful, and the Roman rule was every where re-established. He was a severe disciplinarian, such as the times required; but his severity gave ground for a conspiracy, which cost him his life, A. D. 275. He was over sixty years of age at his death.

3. Middle brass. IMP. AURELIANUS AUG. R.
CONCORDIA AUG.

4. Small br. R. VIRTUS AUG.

5. Small br., of Severina, empress. R. CONCOR-
DIÆ MILITUM.

XXXVI. On the death of Aurelian, a singular contest arose between the army and Senate, each requesting the other to nominate a successor. Six months elapsed in this generous strife; at length the Senate chose TACITUS, one of their own body, seventy-five years old, and of exemplary character. He lived only six months after his elevation.—The historian Tacitus was claimed by the emperor as his ancestor.

10. Brass. IMP. C. M. CL(audius) TACITUS AUG.
R. FELICIT(as) TEMP(orum).

11. R. A woman holding a purse; *UBERITAS*.
“Plenty.”
12. R. *CONCORDIA MILITUM*.
13. Silver, of Florianus, brother of Tacitus, who assumed the purple as successor, but was murdered by his troops, A. D. 276. *cb*.
14. Brass, of the same. *VIRTUS AUG*.

XXXVII. *PROBUS*, during a reign of six years, was warring from the Rhine to the Nile, and always with success. In a recess of peace, having set the soldiers to draining a marsh, a mutiny was raised, and he fell, A. D. 282, aged fifty. “In civil and military virtue, he was equal to any predecessor.”

17. Gold. *IMP. C. M. AUR(elius) PROBUS AUG. R. SECURITAS SÆCULI*. In the exergue, *Sis*, for *Siscia*, either his birthplace, or the place of coinage.
18. Plated brass. *R. ROMÆ AETERNÆ*. (He repaired the city.)
19. Small brass. *SOLI INVICTO*.
20. R. *VICTORIA GERM*. The Germans were driven from Gaul with immense loss; nine kings submitted, and sixteen thousand German youth were taken into the Roman army.

XXXVIII. *CARUS*, pretorian prefect under *Probus*, succeeded that prince by election of the army, A. D. 282, at the age of fifty-two. He was killed in his tent by lightning, in a campaign against Persia, about one year after.

26. Brass. IMP. CARUS P. F. AUG. R. SPES
PUBLICA. P. XXI.

27. R. PAX EXERCIT. XXI.

XXXIX. CARINUS and NUMERIAN, sons of Carus, succeeded their father, A. D. 283. The former was plunged in debauchery; the latter, a virtuous youth, contracted a disease of the eyes in grief for his parent, which obliged him to travel in a close litter. In this hidden place he was murdered by his ambitious father-in-law, Aper, A. D. 284. Carinus also died by violence, a year after.

29. Small brass. M. AUR(elius) CARINUS NOB-
(ilis) C(æsar). R. PRINCIPI JUVENT.

30. PIETAS AUGG. (These two were struck before the death of Carus.)

31. Washed brass, of MAGNIA URBICA, a lady known only by her coins, but supposed to be the wife of Carinus. R. VENUS GENE-
TRIX. *cb.*

32. Brass, of the same. R. VENUS VICTRIX.

33. Base silver. DIVO NIGRINIANO. This deified youth is supposed to have been a son of Carinus. *cb.*

34. Base silver, of JULIANUS, usurper. *cb.*

35. Gold. R. AUR(elius) NUMERIANUS NOB. C.
R. PRINCIPI JUVENT.

36. Silver. R. PIETAS AUGG. *cb.*

37. Brass. IMP. NUMERIANUS AUG. R. PIETAS
AUGG.

38. R. PROVIDENTIA AUGG. XXI.

39. Brass, same legends as the gold coin.

XL. DIOCLETIAN, a master spirit, though born a slave, received the empire from the army, A. D. 285, at the age of forty. The next year he associated MAXIMIAN HERCULES; and in 292, the two called to their aid GALERIUS, and CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS, as Cæsars, and the empire was divided into four jurisdictions; Diocletian in the East, Maximian over Italy and Africa, Galerius in the region between the Adriatic and Euxine, and Constantius in the West. The two emperors abdicated in 305. This long reign was signalized by the increase of despotism, by incessant wars, and by a systematic effort to root out Christianity.

41. Gold. DIOCLETIANUS P. F. AUG. R. JOVI CONSER. AUGG.

42. Silver. R. XCVI. AQ. (Struck at Aquileia in Italy.)

43. R. The emperor and officers sacrificing before a camp. VIRTUS MILITUM.

44. Brass. R. JOVI TUTATORI AUGG. "To Jupiter, defender of the emperors."

45. R. GENIO POPULI ROMANI. AQ. P. "To the Genius of the Roman People."

46. R. VOT. XX., within a wreath.

47. CONCORDIA MILITUM.

49. Gold. IMP. C. M. A. MAXIMIANUS AUG. R. VIRTUTI HERCULIS.

50. Silver. R. Same as No. 44.
51. R. As on No. 41. *cb.*
52. Brass. D(omino) N(ostro) MAXIMIANO BEATISSIMO SEN. AUG. "To our most blessed lord Maximian the elder."
53. R. GENIO AUGG. et CÆSARUM N. N. KA. (Carthage mint.)
54. As No. 47.
55. IMP. CARAUSIUS P. F. AUG. R. PAX AUG.

This remarkable man was a Roman admiral on the coast of Britain. In 287 he seized upon that island, made it an empire for himself, and forced an acknowledgment of his claim, by the Roman emperors. He reigned with *éclat* for six years, when he fell by the hand of his minister Allectus; who was subdued by the forces of Constantius, two years after, 295. (The coins extant, of these two usurpers or emperors, are comparatively few, although they are of considerable variety in device. This specimen was lately dug up in England.)

XLI. The administration now presents a confused multitude of Augusti and Cæsars. GALERIUS and CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS, succeeding their patrons in 305, SEVERUS and MAXIMIN DAZA were called to take part in the government. In 306, the restless Max. Hercules returned to the empire, with his son MAXENTIUS; Severus was made emperor; Constantius died (in Britain),

and his son CONSTANTINE took the rank of Cæsar. In 307, Severus died, and LICINIUS became an emperor. 308, Maximin Daza assumed the purple in the East, and Constantine in the West, so that the Romans now supported the burden of *six* emperors, each with his court and camp. Four of these died or were killed nearly at the same time; Maximian in 310; Galerius, 311; Maxentius, 312; and Maximin Daza, 313. History hesitates to decide which was the greatest tyrant.

58. Silver. CONSTANTIUS CÆS. R. As No. 43.

59. Small brass. R. CONCORDIA MILITUM.

60. Small brass, of Theodora, second wife of Constantius.

62. Silver, of Galerius. MAXIMIANUS NOB. C.
R. A camp; VIRTUS MILITUM.

63. Brass. IMP. C. GAL(erius) VAL(erius) MAXIMIANUS P. F. AUG. R. GENIO IMPERATORIS.

64. R. As No. 45.

65. Brass, of Valeria, wife of Galerius.

66. Brass, of Severus. R. SALVIS AUGG. ET CÆSS. FEL. KART.

67. Do., of Maximin Daza. R. As No. 63.

68. Small brass, of the same.

69. Brass, of Maxentius. R. CONSERV. URB. SUE. "Preserver of his own city."

70. Small brass, of Romulus, infant son of Maxentius.

XLII. CONSTANTINE the Great, succeeding his father in the West, in 306, had but one colleague, or com-

petitor, remaining in 313. LICINIUS, his brother-in-law, reigned in the East; and after various collisions and compacts, the latter was forced to yield his throne in 323, and his life the year after. Constantine remaining sole emperor, restored peace and solidity to the empire, built a new capital (Constantinople) and established Christianity as the state religion. He died in 337, at the age of sixty-three.

73. Gold. CONSTANTINUS MAGNUS. R. Jupiter standing; JOVI CONSERVATORI AUGG. TS. B. This must have been struck before his conversion to Christianity (in 311), or before his open avowal of it.

75. Small brass. R. SOLI INVICTO COMITI. (The sense is obscure.)

76. R. A camp; PROVIDENTIA AUGG.

77. R. Mars standing; MARTI CONSERVATORI.

[There is a rare type extant, not in this collection, bearing the monogram of Christ, and the legend IN HOC SIGNO VINC(es), the Latin version of *Touto Nika*, (Gr.), "by this (sign) conquer." This sign was the appearance of a splendid cross in the heavens, which, as he affirmed some years afterwards, was presented to his view, near Milan, on his march against Maxentius; and to which he attributed both his victory and his conversion. It is remarkable as the introduction of the Christian emblems, which become more and more common,

until scarce any thing else appears on the coins. See the series of the Lower Empire.]

78. Silver. FLAV(ia) MAX(ima) FAUSTA AUG.

R. The empress suckling two infants; SPES REIPUBLICÆ. SIRMIIUM. (She was the daughter of Maximian, sister of Maxentius, and wife of Constantine. Having caused the death of Crispus by a false charge, she was condemned by the emperor to the same fate, 326, after a union of nineteen years.) *cb.*

79. Small brass, same type.

80. Same figure, with SALUS REIPUBLICÆ.

81. JUL(ius) CRISPUS NOB(ilis) CÆS. R. VIR-TUS EXERCIT. Crispus was the son of Constantine, and a favourite of the army; but was put to death on an accusation of the empress, his step-mother, 326.

82. R. VICT(oriæ) LÆTÆ PRINC. PERP. SISCIA.

83. Silver. FL(avius) DELMATIUS NOB. CÆS. He was a nephew of Constantine, and governed Greece; killed by the soldiers, 337. *cb.*

84. Sm. brass, of the same. R. GLORIA EXERCITUS.

85. Brass. IMP. LIC(inianus) LICINIUS P. F. AUG. R. As No. 73.

86. Sm. brass; same reverse.

87. R. as No. 75.

88. Sm. brass, of the younger Licinius. (Put to death, 326, at the age of eleven years.)

XLIII. The empire now underwent another division, and reunion. CONSTANTINE II. had the West; CONSTANS the middle provinces, with Italy; and CONSTANTIUS II. the East. The first fell in a war with his next brother, A. D. 340; the second was overcome by Magnentius, 350; and from the overthrow of that usurper, in 353, Constantius II. remained sole emperor, finishing a long and inglorious reign in 361, aged forty-four.

89. Gold. No legend around the head. R.

CONSTANTINUS CÆSAR.

90. Silver. R. VOTIS XXX. MULTIS XXXX. ANT.
(for the mint at Antioch.)

91. Small brass. CONSTANTINUS JUNIOR NOB.
C. R. GLORIA EXERCITUS.

92. R. CÆSARUM NOSTRORUM. VOT. V.

93. R. Same, with VOT. X.

94. R. A camp; PROVIDENTIA CÆSS.

95. Gold. CONSTANS AUGUSTUS. R. VICTORIA
DD. NN. AUGG. TR. On a shield held by two
genii or angels, VOT. X. MULT. XX. See No.
101.

96. Brass. R. A soldier holding the military
ensign or labarum, on which is the monogram
of Christ. FEL(icium) TEMP(orum) REPARA-
TIO. "The restoration of happy times."

97. Sm. brass. R. as No. 95, except the shield.

98. CONSTANTINOPOLIS. Helmeted head, personifying the new city.

99. Gold. FL. JUL. CONSTANTIVS PERP. AVGVSTVS.
R. A shield, with VOT. XX. MULT. XXX.
Legend, GLORIA REIPUBLICÆ. SMNT.

100. Gold quinarius. R. VICTORIA AVGVSTI.
VOT. XXX.

101. Silver. R. VOTIS XXV. MULTIS XXX.
ANT. (This inscription, the style of which now beomes common, is a brief way of saying, that the emperor has renewed or accomplished his inaugural vow twenty-five times, i. e. has enjoyed the title of Augustus, or Cæsar, for twenty-five years, and it is hoped that he will complete at least as many as thirty; this is the only plausible interpretation of MULT. XXX. It seems but a feeble compliment to a monarch; however, as will be seen by the next coin, as soon as he had accomplished VOTIS XXX., the wish was ready for MULT. XXXX.)

102. R. VOTIS XXX. MULTIS XXXX. It must be counted from the time he was created Cæsar by his father, in 323.

103. Brass. A soldier leading a child; FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO. The favourite legend of Constantine's family.

104. R. GLORIA ROMANORUM.
105. Sm. brass. CONSTANTIUS JUN. NOB. C.
R. A globe on a pedestal.
106. R. GLORIA EXERCITUS.
107. R. VOT. XX. MULT. XXX.
108. Silver, of Vetrano, a Roman general and usurper, in Pannonia; reigned ten months. *cb.*
109. Brass, of Magnentius, a more formidable usurper, in Gaul; reigned three years, and was subdued, after refusing a share of the empire offered by Constantius, 353.
110. Sm. brass, of the same.
111. Silver, of Decentius, brother and coadjutor of Magnentius.
112. Large silver, of the same. The Christian symbol behind the head. *cb.*

XLIV. JULIAN, nephew of Const. the Great, was famous for his efforts to bring back the empire to paganism, chiefly by his pen. Some real reforms were also brought about in the government, and the manners at court. But the desire of figuring as a conqueror led him into Persia, from whence he with difficulty effected a retreat, and on the way lost his life, 363, at the age of thirty-two, and after a reign of two years, counting from the death of Constantius II., or about three, from his elevation by the army at Paris.

113. Gold. FL(avius) CL(audius) JULIANUS P.
P. AUG. R. VIRTUS EXERCITUS ROMANORUM.
SIRM.

114. Silver. D(ominus) N(oster) FL., &c. R. Vot. X., Mult. XX. Counting from his *Cæsarship*.—The long beard recalls the derision of the citizens of Antioch, where he wintered, and the consequent production of the *Misopogon*, one of the emperor's literary efforts.
115. Large brass. R. The sacred bull Apis; SECURITAS REIPUB(licæ.) CONST. Julian was partial to the Egyptian deities.
116. Small brass, of the same.
117. Small brass of Helena, wife of Julian, and sister of Constantius II. SECURITAS REIPUBLICÆ.

XLV. Whilst the generals were in conclave, the soldiers proceeded to elect JOVIAN, a subordinate officer, and a man of no pretensions. He survived his elevation only seven months, A. D. 364. Christianity was restored to imperial favour.

123. Brass. D. N. JOVIANUS P. P. AUG. R. VOT. V. MULT. X. SIRM.
124. R. The same, except the mint-mark, which is SIS. (When these pieces were struck, the imperial vow for five years was evidently just assumed, not completed; showing that these dates are to be variously understood.)

XLVI. VALENTINIAN I., son of Count Gratian, received the empire from the army, and at their instance

placed his brother VALENS over the Eastern provinces. The tendency towards a division of Rome was thus accelerated. The former died 375, having reigned eleven years; the latter survived him three years, and was burnt to death in a cottage, where he had taken shelter in battle.

129. Gold. Head and titles of Valentinian. R.

VICTORIA AUGG. TR. OB.

130. Silver. R. VOT. X. MULT. XX. ANT.

131. Small brass. R. The Christian cipher on a military standard; GLORIA ROMANORUM. SISC.

132. R. SECURITAS REIPUBLICÆ.

133. Silver. URBS ROMA. TRPS.

134. Small brass. RESTITUTOR REIPUBLICÆ. SIS.

135. SECURITAS REIPUBLICÆ.

136. Silver, of Procopius, a usurper at Constantinople. *cb.*

XLVII. GRATIAN, a youth, and VALENTINIAN II., a child, succeeded to the throne of their father in the West, 375. On the death of Valens, they associated the famous Theodosius, of Spain, who was stationed in the East. Gratian fell in 383, at the age of twenty-four, while on the march against an usurper in Gaul; his brother perished by the hand of an assassin, in 392, aged twenty-one; and the whole empire remained to Theodosius.

137. Gold. Head and titles of Gratian. R. As No. 129.

138. Silver. R. URBS ROMA. TR. PS.

139. Brass. **R.** REPARATIO REIPUBLICÆ. **P.**
CON.
140. Small brass. **R.** SECURITAS REIPUBLICÆ.
SIS.
141. Brass. D. N. MAGNUS MAXIMUS P. F.
AUG. **R.** As on No. 139. A usurper in
Gaul, who maintained his power four years,
383-87.
142. Gold. Head and titles of Valentinian, jun.
R. As No. 129.
143. Brass. **R.** As No. 139.
144. Smallest brass. **R.** SALUS REIPUBLICÆ.

XLVIII. THEODOSIUS I., was called to a participation of the empire in 379, at the age of thirty-three. He became sole emperor in 392, and was the last to enjoy that distinction. In 395 he expired, after an illustrious reign, and left the realm to be divided between his two sons.

145. Gold. Head and titles of Theodosius. **R.**
As No. 129.
146. Small silver. VOT. MULT. XXXX.
147. Brass. **R.** REPARATIO REIPUB. SIS.
148. **R.** As No. 131.
149. Small brass. CONCORDIA AUGGG. SIS.
150. Brass, of Flacilla, empress. **R.** A female
figure, and the Christian monogram. SALUS
REIPUBLICÆ. CONS.

XLIX. From the accession of Honorius, in 395, about eighty years elapsed to the extinction of the Western Empire. The period was marked by a succession of feeble or nominal princes; by the daring inroads of barbarians; the loss, one by one, of the provinces of Britain, Gaul, Spain, and Africa; and finally the establishment of a Gothic monarchy in Italy itself.

153. Gold, of HONORIUS. **R.** As No. 129.
(Died in 423.)
154. Silver. **R.** VIRTUS ROMANORUM. (A remarkable legend for the times.)
155. Brass. **R.** Imperfect.
156. Silver, of CONSTANTIUS III., associate of Honorius, for seven months only. *cb.*
158. Silver. JOHN, secretary to Honorius, afterwards a usurper of the throne, 425. *cb.*
159. Gold, of VALENTINIAN III. Placidius. **R.** As No. 129. (425-55.)
160. Silver, of Justa Grata Honoria, sister of the preceding. **R.** A figure holding a large cross upright; BONO REIPUBLICÆ. CONOB. *cb.*
163. Gold, of SEVERUS III. An emperor created by Ricimer, a barbarian general in the Roman service, and really at the head of affairs. **R.** As No. 129. (461-65.)
166. Silver, of Ælia Euphemia, wife of Anthemius. *cb.*

168. Silver, of OLYBRIUS, emperor for three months. 472. *cb.*
169. Small gold, of JULIUS NEPOS. *R.* A cross; *CONOB.* 474. Romulus Augustus, commonly styled AUGUSTULUS, the last, and merely nominal emperor, was deposed by Odoacer, 475. The Roman empire in the West is usually considered as ended at this date.

DIVISION VI.

BYZANTINE EMPIRE.

AT the death of Theodosius I., A. D. 395, the empire was divided between his two sons, Arcadius and Honorius, the former ruling at Constantinople, the latter at Rome. Although no formal or absolute separation between the East and West was intended by this arrangement (for it had often been practised before), yet such was the ultimate effect. It is not easy to mark the extent of the later Roman empire, either as to time or territory. Even after the imperial line in the West had ceased (A. D. 475), there was more or less recognition of the sovereign authority of the emperor at Constantinople, by the barbaric kings, and the popes, in Italy ; and Justinian (A. D. 527—565), by his renowned generals, Belisarius and Narses, vindicated his title to that region, and to Africa. The crowning of Charlemagne at Rome, A. D. 800, and his proclamation as Emperor of the West,* by Pope Leo III., seems to be

* This title has precariously descended almost to our own day. When the Emperor of Germany changed his

the most decided limitation of the power of the Eastern emperor, and a proper commencement for the distinctive name of “*Byzantine*,” “*Eastern*,” or “*Lower*,” Empire. But as the authority of the monarch at Constantinople was, on the whole, but feebly acknowledged, and more feebly felt, west of the Adriatic Sea, from the time of the division as above stated (395), there is a propriety in dating the Byzantine Empire from that event; and a mixture of unfitness in still designating it, as all historians and numismatists do, as the Roman Empire. This is especially realized as we descend to the last days of the Greek dynasty, and find scarce any part of the immense dominion left, except its trembling capital. But the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks, in 1453, affords an undisputed resting-point.

The coins of this division, if of no interest as works of art, farther than to prove the extreme degeneracy of taste and skill, are equal to any, as curiosities, and as illustrations of history.

Although the series takes in eight centuries of time, there is a general similarity of tone, espe-

title to Emperor of Austria (A. D. 1804), he dropped the old honorary suffix, *Romanus Imperator*. But historians scarcely speak of the Roman Empire as properly continued under the successors of Charlemagne.

cially if we start with the second Theodosius ; so that one may be sure, by a casual glance at any of them, that it is Byzantine, and not Roman proper. However, they fairly admit of subdivision, and it is not a forced coincidence, which places the line at A. D. 811, about midway in the whole series.*

Previous to Michael I. (811—813), we have these peculiarities. On the gold and silver (there is but little of the latter) we have the emperor, head and bust, and always front face ; on the reverse, the monotonous and unjustifiable VICTORIA AUG., at least not justifiable in any other sense than that the Augustus had triumphed over his predecessor. Within this legend, on a high throne, the cross stands conspicuous and erect.—As for the copper coins, there is not much variation from the colossal and unintelligible M, K, or I, occupying

* That is, by leaving off at about A. D. 1300 ; there are no coins certainly known later than Andronicus II., who reigned 1282—1328.

The coincidence is more remarkable in another respect. The war against the use of images, which agitated both church and state from the time of the edict of Leo the Isaurian, 726, was brought to an end about 800, by the defeat of the iconoclasts. The renewed worship or veneration of images was, no doubt, one cause of the marked change in the devices of the coinage, as stated farther on.

the field of the reverse. Occasionally, when the imperial power was divided, a number of heads or figures were crowded upon the coin, on both sides.

But from the accession of Michael Rhangabe, we observe a new phase in the coinage, and a more decided display of religious sentiment. The bust or full length of Christ, signalized by the nimbus, and legend *IHSVS XPISTVS, NICA(tor), or REX REGNANTIUM, or BASILEVS BASILE(on)*, expressive of his pre-eminence as Conqueror, and King of kings, generally occupies one side of the gold and silver coins; on the reverse, the emperor is sometimes alone, and sometimes shares the space with the Virgin, *MHP ΘΥ*, (*Mater Theou*, "Mother of God,") the two holding aloft, and between them, the standard of the cross. The imperial heads or faces, which in the former series seemed to follow the usual human outline, are here fantastically compressed into triangles or trapeziums. As we near the crusading era, the figures are nearly all at full length, standing or sitting. The legends also have completed the transition from the Latin language to the Greek. On the copper, the vast letters *M, K, &c.*, are nearly superseded by inscriptions, to the same effect as above cited, occupying the field. It is

remarkable, however, that while the reading on the copper is quite conspicuous and distinct, that of the gold and silver is so affectedly minute, that a modern eye can scarcely make it out without a magnifier.

(It should be here explained, that we continue the use of the numismatic term *brass*, in the lower coinage, although *copper* seems to be more proper, in every case.)

8. Gold, of ARCADIOUS, Emperor. 395—408.

VICTORIA AUGGG.

9. Silver. R. VIRTUS ROMANORUM.

10, 11. Middle brass. GLORIA ROMANORUM.

12. Small br. VIRTUS EXERCITI.

13. Very small br. SALUS REIPUB.

15. Gold, of THEODOSIUS II., son of Arcadius, and Emperor. 408—450. IMP. XXXXII. Cos. XVII. P. P.

16. Small br. CONCORDIA AUGG. Expresses a season of harmony between the Eastern and Western emperors.

17. Gold, of MARCIAN. 450—457. R. as No. 8.

18. Gold. LEO I. 457—474. The usual R. VICTORIA AUGG.

19. Gold. ZENO. 474—491.

20. Gold. ANASTASIUS. 491—518.
22. Large brass. M.
23. Middle br. K. E.
24. Small br. K.
25. Very small br. I. By this series, the mysterious initials, already mentioned, would seem to stand for denominations of coin; but some subsequent instances rather oppose this inference.
26. Gold, of JUSTIN I. 518—527.
- 27, 28, 29. Large and middle brasses, of the same.
30. Gold, of JUSTINIAN I. 527—565. (Died at the age of 82.)
- 31, 32, 33. Large and middle brasses of the same; ANNO XIII—XVI—XVIII. They do not answer to our preconceptions of the era of the Civil Code and Pandects.
34. Small silver coin of GELIMAR, king of the Vandals in Africa. (His kingdom was overthrown, and himself captured, by Belisarius, A. D. 534. He was honourably treated, and provided for, by Justinian.) D. N. RX. GELIMA. Head of the prince.
36. Gold, of JUSTIN II. 565—578.
- 37, 38. Large brass of Justin, with Sophia, empress.

39. Large br., of TIBERIUS II. ANNO VI.
578—582.
40. Gold, of MAURICE. 582—602.
- 41, 42. Large and small br., of the same. ANNO
X.—IIII.
43. Gold, of FOCAS (as it is on the coins), usually
spelt Phocas. 602—610.
44. Large br., of the same.
45. Middle br., Phocas, and Leontia, empress.
46. Gold, of HERACLIUS I. 610—640. Heads
of the emperor and son.
47. Large silver, of the same. (Weighs 100 grs.)
- 48, 49, 50. Large and middle brasses, of the
same.
51. Silver, of CONSTANS II. 641—668.
52. Gold, of CONSTANTINE IV., surnamed
POGONATUS, on account of his beard, which is
conspicuous. 668—685.
53. Sm. brass, of the same.
54. Gold, of JUSTINIAN II. 685—711. The
loss of his nose, with his throne, occasioned the
surname of RHINOTMETUS.
57. Gold, of ANASTASIUS II. 713—716.
- 58, 59, 60. Small brasses of LEO III., the Isau-
rian. 717—741.
61. Gold, of MICHAEL I. Rhangabe. 811—
813. R. Head of Christ ; ihsys xristos.

62. Pale gold ; the same head, with *ic. xc.*
63. Large brass of MICHAEL II., with Theophilus. 820—829.
64. Gold, of THEOPHILUS. 829—842. *R.* Heads of his sons.
- 65, 66. Large brass, of the same.
67. Gold, of BASIL I. 866—886. *R.* Figure of Christ, sitting ; *ih̄s xrs rex regnatih̄m.* (The spelling of those times was not critically exact.)
68. Middle brass, of Basil and his sons.
- 69, 70. Middle br., of LEO VI., surnamed the Wise. 886—911. *R.* *LEoh eh ΘEO BASILEUS ROMEoh.* "Leo, in (or under) God, King of the Romans." *Basileus* was then considered an equivalent to *Imperator* or *Autocrator*.
71. Middle brass, of Leo and his brother Alexander. *LEoh s. ALEXAHGROS* (so spelt) *BASIL. ROMEoh.* This, as in the previous coin, is an inscription, spread over the whole reverse of the piece.
72. Gold, of ROMANUS I., with his son Christophorus. 919—944.
73. Gold, of CONSTANTINE X., with his son Romanus II. 911—959. A part of the time he was colleague with Romanus I.
74. Middle br., of Constantine alone.

75. Same, of Constantine, and his mother Zoë.
76. Same, of ROMANUS II. 959—963. R.
As No. 69.
78. Gold, of NICEPHORUS II. PHOCAS. 963—969. See frontispiece, No. 4.
- 79, 80, 81. Large brasses, of JOHN ZIMISCES. 969—975. Large inscriptions on the rev., of “Jesus Christ, King of kings,” with slight variety.
82. Same. IC. XC. NI KA., arranged in the four angles of a cross. “Jesus Christ, the Conqueror.”
85. Large thin silver, of CONSTANTINE XII. Monomachus. 1042—1054. R. The Virgin standing, with uplifted hands.
86. Gold, of ROMANUS IV. 1068—1071. The emperor and Virgin standing side by side; the latter with her hand on the emperor’s head. R. Christ, seated.
87. Gold, of the same, and nearly the same devices.
88. Pale gold, concave, or “incuse.” Michael VII. 1071—1078.
89. Pale gold, incuse. NICEPHORUS III. Boniatiates. 1078—1081. The emperor at full length, holding the globe and labarum.
90. Same, in gold, except the emperor in *half-length*.

92. Gold, of ALEXIUS I. Comnenus. 1081—1118. ΑΛΕΞΙΩ. ΔΕΣΠΟΤ. ΤΩ. ΚΟΜΝΗΜΟ.
“Alexius Comnenus, despot.”
93. Gold, of the same. R. Figure of Christ seated, as if in the act of teaching; holding in one hand the Sacred Scriptures, the other hand uplifted. IC. XC.
95. Gold, of JOHN II. Comnenus, surnamed the Handsome. 1118—1143.
96. Gold, of MANUEL I. Comnenus, surnamed Porphyrogenitus, “born to the purple.” 1143—1180. (It was somewhat a rare honour to be born to a reigning emperor, and actually to succeed him, the two conditions requisite to this title, which occurs in several instances.)
- 97, 98. Silver, of the same.
- 99, 100. Small br., of the same.
101. Middle br., ANDRONICUS I. 1183—1185.
102. Small br., ISAAC II. Angelus. 1185—1203.
- 103, 104. Coins in middle brass, bearing the head of Christ, with IC. XC. on one side, and an ornamented cross on the other; they are believed to be of the brief dynasty of Latin princes, or Crusaders, who turned aside from their way to Jerusalem, A. D. 1203, to capture

Constantinople. They retained the Byzantine Empire, or a large part of it, near sixty years. The throne was restored to the Greek dynasty, by the victories of Michael VIII. Paleologus, A. D. 1261.

106. Pale gold, of ANDRONICUS II. Paleologus. 1282—1328. R. The Virgin, with uplifted hands, surrounded by the walls of Constantinople.

107, 108, 109. Small silver, doubtfully ascribed to John V. and John VIII., the latter of whom died A. D. 1448, five years before the final triumph of the Turks.

113. A leaden seal, of the Byzantine Empire.

G R E E K C O I N S .

THE second general division of antique coins, is the *Greek*. The invention of coinage belongs to the Greeks ; and by them it was carried to as great perfection as was attained in ancient times. The date of the invention, as well as the exact locality, is uncertain ; but it is most probable that coined money was not known earlier than seven centuries before the Christian era.

The coins of this division comprise not only those of Greece and her colonies, but of those countries which were overrun by the Macedonian conqueror, and over whom Greek generals established themselves and their successors. Hence they include Greece proper, Sicily, southern Italy, and more western points in Europe, and Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, Persia, and Bactria, during all that time in which the Grecian name was most illustrious in the world, and the Roman was preparing to supplant it.

They are easily subdivided into the REPUBLICS, and MONARCHIES.

Of the first sort, there seem to have been not

less than *one thousand* cities, colonies, and petty states, who coined their own money, and left an endless, perhaps useless, study for modern antiquarians. Many of them are interesting, but we consider them sufficiently represented in our moderate collection.

In the second class, it has been found necessary to include a few which are not inscribed with Greek characters, nor are in any sense Grecian; such as the daric, the shekel, the fire-worship series of Persia, the barbarian coins of Bactria: they were not sufficient, nor sufficiently congruous, to form a third general division.

GREEK REPUBLICS.

1. ABYDOS. Silv.
2. ACHAIA. Silv.
3. ÆGEA. Silv.
- 4, 5, 6. ÆGINA. Silv. Three sizes; the largest weighs 170 grs., and is worn; the smallest 13 grs. Ægina had a different standard from most other parts of Greece.—The device of a *tortoise* is emblematic of the island, lying securely in the water. The large and small pieces, having no reverse except the marks of the stake on which they were laid in coining, are believed to date near the origin of the art, and may be twenty-five hundred years old. The middle piece seems of a later era.
7. ÆZANIS. Br.
8. AGRIGENTUM. Silv.
9. Do. Br.
10. ALEXANDRIA, of the Troad. Br.
12. AMASIA. Br.
14. AMISUS. Silv.
15. AMPHIPOLIS. Silv. This specimen weighs

but seven grains; value less than two cents. A small morsel, to be handed down so many centuries.

16 to 19. APOLLONIA. Silv.

20. ARADUS. Silv.

25. ARGOS, Acarnania. Silv.

26. Do. Peloponnesus. Silv.

28. ATHENS. Silver, tetradrachm; weighs 266 grs.; value about 68 cents. Obverse, a head of Minerva, of very ancient style; reverse, a large owl, with the letters A Θ E, initials of Athens. The devices are in the boldest relief, and the general style of the coin, coupled with historical facts, indicate an age of twenty-one to twenty-three centuries.

The proverbial saying of the Greeks, "taking owls to Athens," was of the same import as the modern one, of "carrying coals to Newcastle;" (or, as we should say, to Pottsville.)

29. Electrotpe copy of the reverse of No. 28.

30, 31. ATHENS. Br.

33. BEREIA. Br.

34. BLAUNDOS. Br.

35. BŒOTIA. Silv.

36. BRUTTII. Br.

37. CAMPANIA, Syria. Br.

38. CATANA. *cb.* Silv.

39. CHALCIS, of Eubœa. Silv.
 40. Do. of Macedonia. Br.
 42. CHERSONESUS TAURICA. Silv.
 43. CLAZOMENE. Br.
 44. CNOSUS, of Crete. Br. The reverse shows
 a ground-plan of the famous *labyrinth*.
 46. CORCYRA magna. Silv.
 49 to 54. CORCYRA nigra. Br.
 57 to 61. CORINTH. Silv. No. 57, tetradrachm,
 is of beautiful workmanship. Obverse, head of
 Minerva; reverse, Pegasus, or the winged horse.
 62. CORINTH. Br.
 63. COTIACUM. Br.
 64. CYRENE. Br.
 65. CYZICUS. Br.
 66, 67, 68. DYRRACHIUM. Silv.
 69. Do. Br.
 70. EPHESUS, Ionia. Silv.
 71. EPIRUS. Silv.
 73. EUBŒA. Silv.
 74. GELAS. Silv.
 75. Do. Br.
 76. HERACLEA, of Lucania. Silv.
 78. Do. of Macedonia. Silv.
 80. HISTRŒA. Silv.
 81. ILISTŒA. Silv.
 82. ISTRUS. Silv.

83. LARISSA. Silv.
 84. LAMPSACUS. Br.
 85. LESBOS. Silv.
 86. LETE. Silv.
 87. LOCRI. Silv.
 88. Do. Br.
 89. LEUCADIA. Br.
 91, 92. MACEDONIA. Silv.
 93. MAMERTINI. Br.
 94. MARONEA. Silv.
 95. Do. Br.
 97, 98, 99. MASSILIA. Silv. These are interesting, as belonging to a colony of Greeks who, to escape the oppressions of a Persian governor, emigrated to the coast of Gaul, (about six hundred years before Christ,) and settled upon the spot now known as *Marseilles*. The finished workmanship attests their civilization; in which respect they are said to have exerted great influence upon the surrounding Gauls.
 100. MILETUS. Br.
 101. MYCONUS. Br.
 102. MYSIA. Br.
 103, 104. NEAPOLIS, of Campania (Naples). Silv.
 105, 106, 107. Do. Br.
 108. NEAPOLIS, Macedonia. Silv.

110. NEMAUSUS, Greek colony in France; now *Nîmes*. Obverse, bears the heads of Augustus and Agrippa, in whose day this was struck.
111. OENIADÆ. Br.
113. PAESTUM. Br.
115. PANORMUS. Br.
116. PARIUM. Silv.
117. PELLE. Br.
118. PERGAMUS. Silv.
119. PHARSALIA. Silv.
120. PHARUS. Br.
121. PHOCIDIS. Silv.
122. PHCENIA. Br.
123. PYTOPOLIS. Silv.
124. RHEGIUM. Silv.
- 126, 127. RHODES. Silv.
128. Do. Br.
129. SARDIS. Br.
130. SICYON, island. Silv.
131. Do. Achaia. Silv.
133. SIDE. Silv.
- 134, 135. SIPHNUS. Silv.
136. Do. Br.
138. SMYRNA. Br.
139. SYRACUSE. Silv.
140. Do. Br.

- 141. TARENTUM. Silv.
- 142, 143. TAUROMENIUM. Br.
- 146. TEANUM. Br.
- 147. TENEDOS, of the Troad. Br.
- 148. THASUS. Silv.
- 149. THESSALY. Silv.
- 150. THESSALONICA. Silv.
- 153, 154. THRACE. Silv.
- 157, 158. VELIA. Silv.

GREEK MONARCHIES.

MACEDON.

THIS kingdom was founded about eight hundred years before Christ; four hundred and fifty years later it was enlarged by the conquests of Philip; and became still more conspicuous from the military career of his son, Alexander the Great. But the kingdom began to decline at his death, and at length, B. C. 148, became a province of the Roman empire.

9. Small silver coin, of one of the early kings, uncertain which, but evidently earlier than Alexander I., who flourished about B. C. 500. It bears the Macedonian horse on the obverse, and there is no reverse except the punch-marks.
- 10, 11. Bronze coins of AMYNTAS II. B. C. 398—371.
12. Gold stater of PHILIP II. B. C. 371—336.
13. Silver tetradrachm, of the same.
14. Hemidrachm, of the same.
15. Bronze coin, of the same.

17. Gold stater of ALEXANDER III. (THE GREAT.)
B. C. 336—323. Obverse, head of Minerva;
reverse, a female figure, with wings, representing
Victory, and bearing a trident.

18, 19. Tetradrachms of the same. The head
represents Hercules, clothed with the lion's
skin; but it is believed that a likeness of Alex-
ander is also intended. Reverse, figure of
Jupiter seated, holding an eagle. Legend,
ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ. "(Money) of Alexander."

Alexander was so jealous of his personal appearance, as
to allow the imitation of it, in painting, sculpture, or en-
graving, by only three of his best artists; all *mediocre*
hands were strictly forbidden to attempt it.

The lion's skin is said to have been displayed, as show-
ing the descent of the Macedonian royal line, by Caraunus,
from Hercules.—It is curiously alluded to by the Emperor
Constantine VI., Porphyrogenitus, writing in the tenth
Christian century. "The kings of Macedonia, instead of
the crown, the diadem, and the purple, bear [upon their
effigy] the skin of a lion's head. More honourable to
them is this than to be decked with pearls and precious
stones."

20, 21. 22. Drachms, of the same. (No. 22 has
a ring, and appears to have been worn as a pen-
dant ornament; but how long ago, is uncertain.
Its being a fashion among the oriental ladies of
the present day, is some proof that it was also
the custom a thousand years ago, as the fashions
there are said to undergo but little change.)

23. Drachm, of PHILIP III., brother of Alexander.
B. C. 323—316.

25, 26. Bronze coins, of CASSANDER. B. C.
316—299.

27. Bronze, of PHILIP IV. B. C. 298.

28. Silver, of ALEXANDER IV. B. C. 298—294.

29, 30. Bronze, of the same.

31 to 36. Bronze, of ANTIGONUS I. B. C. 279—
243.

37. Tetradrachm, of PHILIP V. Died B. C. 179.

This piece is so remarkably brittle, that a slight fall broke it; yet upon assay of a fragment, it was found to be 97 per cent. fine.

38. Bronze coin, of PERSEUS. B. C. 179—168.

He was taken by the Romans, and was the last king of Macedon.

39. Small bronze; uncertain whose.

PERSIA.

The ancient coins of the Persian Empire are divisible into three classes. 1. The earliest is that of the dynasty of Cyrus, which began B. C. 560, and ended with Darius III., B. C. 331, by the conquests of Alexander of Macedon. The

first coinage is attributed to Darius I., who ascended the throne B. C. 521; from whose name the coins, whether of gold or silver, are usually called *darics*; but they cannot now be assigned to any particular monarch. 2. The second series commences with the Greek domination. In the partition of the vast conquests of Alexander, Syria, Persia, and Bactria constituted one empire, under Seleucus, a Greek general. But at the end of half a century, Persia was erected into a separate monarchy by Arsaces, founder of the dynasty of Arsacidæ, which lasted from B. C. 256, to A. D. 223. The coins of this class bear inscriptions in Greek. 3. The rule of the Greeks was overthrown by Ardeshir, or Artaxerxes, a Persian, A. D. 223—226, the first of a new line of monarchs, (called *Sassanides*, from Sassan, the father of Ardeshir,) who maintained the throne until A. D. 637, when Persia became a part of the empire of the Caliphs. The coins of this third division are in the ancient Persian or Pehlevi character and language, which, along with the worship of fire, were diligently restored by this native dynasty.

41. Silver daric. Obverse, the figure of an archer; reverse, the marks of the stake on which the

piece lay in coining. The weight is $83\frac{1}{2}$ grs.; the fineness (by sp. gr. of two specimens) varies from 60 to 80 per cent. There is no legend.

The style of the coin indicates a high antiquity.

43. Silver drachm, of Mithridates I., of the Arsacian line; B. C. 156—134. The reverses of the Greek series are very similar, and generally to this effect: "The great and illustrious Arsaces, king of kings, and friend of the Greeks." (*Arsaces* was the official name of every monarch of that line.)

44. Drachm, of PHRAATES II. B. C. 134—129.

45, 46, 47. Drachms, of PHRAATES III. B. C. 70—61.

52. Potin, (large size,) of PHRAATES IV. B. C. 30—A. D. 13.

54. Drachm, of GOTZARES, A. D. 45—48.

The foregoing are in a fair style of work, though inferior to the coins of the other Greek dynasties, especially of Syria and Egypt. The later specimens of the Arsacian line (of which we have a few, for temporary examination only,) are very barbarous, indicating more attention to arms than to arts. Such is a specimen of Vologeses III., *alias* Arsaces XXVIII., about A. D. 190.

57 to 67. Silver coins of the Sassanian kings. A. D. 223—637.

The legends, although they have engaged the attention of the best numismatists, and that for a long period, cannot be satisfactorily made out; only the name of *Shahpur*

(Sapor) can sometimes be discerned. The reverse bears an altar, on which a fire is burning, attended by two magi or priests. The earliest specimens are of good workmanship, in a bold style ; but the devices of later times present little else than a confused jumble of lines. The silver appears to be of good quality ; the coins are remarkably *thin*, as compared with the Greek.

E G Y P T.

This ancient realm had no coined money anterior to the Greek kings, a dynasty which resulted from the conquest by Alexander of Macedon, and began at his death. From the accession of Ptolemy I., to the death of the last Cleopatra (B. C. 323 to B. C. 30) is a period of two hundred and ninety-three years, interesting to the numismatist as well as to the historian.

73. Silver tetradrachm of PTOLEMY II. PHILADELPHUS, B. C. 284—246.

74 to 78. Bronze coins of the Ptolemies, uncertain which. No. 74 is an enormous coin, weighing over three ounces.

79. Bronze, of CLEOPATRA, mother of Ptolemy VIII.

80. Bronze, of PTOLEMY VIII. B. C. 116—106.
 81. Bronze, of CLEOPATRA, wife of Mark Antony ;
 killed herself, B. C. 30. Egypt then became a
 province of the Roman empire.
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SYRIA.

Seleucus, surnamed Nicator (conqueror), was the founder of the Grecian dynasty, called after his name the *Seleucidæ*, which ruled in Syria, B. C. 312 to B. C. 65. (See under *Persia*.) The coins of this series are for the most part in the best style of Greek workmanship ; the legends are simple and easily read.

89. Silver tetradrachm, of ANTIOCHUS SOTER, son of Seleucus ; B. C. 280—261.
 90. Do. of ANTIOCHUS the Great, B. C. 223—187.
 91. Do. of SELEUCUS, son of the preceding. B. C. 187—175.
 92. Do. of ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES, also a son of Antiochus the Great, and famous for his wars with the Jews. B. C. 175—164.
 93. Bronze coin of the same. The face bearded.
 94. Tetradrachm, of DEMETRIUS SOTER. B. C. 162—150.

95. Drachm, of ALEXANDER BALAS. B. C. 150—146.
96. Tetradrachm of DEMETRIUS II. NICATOR. B. C. 146—144.
97. Drachm of ANTIOCHUS DIONYSIUS. B.C. 143.
98. Tetradrachm of ANTIOCHUS SIDETES. B. C. 139—130.
99. Do. of ANTIOCHUS GRYPUS. B. C. 124—97.
100. Do. of PHILIP, B. C. 93—86 ; twenty-first king of this dynasty, and the last but two.—Syria was subdued by Pompey, and made a Roman province. B. C. 65.
101. Jewish shekel, of SIMON MACCABEUS, who flourished about 145 B. C. The legends are in the Samaritan character ; on one side is the budding rod of Aaron, with “ *Jerusalem the holy ;*” on the other, a cup of incense, or pot of manna, and the legend “ *Shekel of Israel.*” The weight is 217 grs. ; the fineness (by sp. gr.) about 95 per cent. ; consequent value, fifty-five and a half cents. This specimen is one of the rarest, and most remarkable, in the collection. It is in fine preservation.
102. A copy of the foregoing (made here) to show the reverse side.
103. A shekel with similar devices, the legends being in the Hebrew character. It is well

known to be an invention, and is but a few centuries old. It weighs 197 grs.

This specimen was presented to the collection by the Bank of Pennsylvania. It had lain in the Branch Bank at Lancaster, sewed up in a buckskin cover, for many years; but no one knew how long, nor by whom it was deposited there. It is curious, even as a fabrication. It is engraved in the old standard European books on ancient coins.

104. Copy of the preceding (made here) showing the reverse.

LESSER MONARCHIES OF GREECE, ASIA MINOR, ETC.

105. Gold stater, of **LYSIMACHUS**, King of Thrace.
B. C. 320.

106. Silver tetradrachm, of the same.

107. Drachm, of the same.

108. Brass, of **RHŒMETALCES**, King of Thrace;
Augustus Cæsar on the reverse.

109. Brass, of **PATRÆUS**, King of Pronia.

110, 111. Do. of **ALEXANDER II.**, of Epirus.

112. Do. of **ABGARUS**, King of Edessa.

113. Do. of **AGATHOCLES**, of Sicily.

114. Drachm, of **PHILISTIS**. *cb.*

- 115. Brass, of HIERO II.
- 116. Do. of PHINTIAS.
- 117. Denarius of JUBA I., King of Numidia.
- 118. Brass, of COTYS II., Bosphorus.
- 119. Do. of PRUSIAS I., King of Bithynia.
- 121. 122. Do. of PRUSIAS II.
- 124. Drachm of ARIARATHES VII., King of Capadocia.
- 125. Do. of ARIOBARZANES III.
- 126. Small brass, of AGRIPPA II., of Judea.
A. D. 48.

B A C T R I A.

(NOW BOKHARA AND CABUL.)

This remote Greek monarchy was founded about B. C. 250, by a secession from the great Syro-Persian empire.

A large number of the coins of Bactria and adjacent regions were lately discovered by British officers in the service of the East India Company. The details of the manner, and the localities, in which they were found, may be seen in the recent work of Prof. Wilson, on the "Antiquities and Coins of Affghanistan;" where they are also fully and admirably illustrated.

- 137, 138. Large and small brass (or copper), of
EUKRATIDES, about B. C. 180.

139. Silver, of ANTIMACHUS, B. C. 140.
140 to 143. Silver, of MENANDER, B. C. 126.
144. Brass, of the same.
145. Brass, of AGATHOKLES, who attempted to form a new monarchy, B. C. 135.
146. Silver, of APOLLODOTUS, B. C. 110.
147, 148. Brass, of the same.
149. Silver, of HERMÆUS, B. C. 98.
150, 151. Brass, of the same.—After this dynasty came a succession of Barbarian and Indo-Scythian princes, whose history is still more scanty and obscure.
153. Brass, of AZES, B. C. 50.
154, 155, 156. Brass, of SOTER MEGAS, “the Great Deliverer,”—name unknown. B. C.——.
157 to 160. Brass, of KADPHISES, supposed about A. D. 100.
161 to 165. Brass, of KANERKES, date unknown, but supposed not later than A. D. 300.
169, 170. Silver coins of Rajpoot princes, not later than A. D. 1200.
171 to 174. Silver Hindu coins, of the middle ages.

MODERN COINS.

THE subject of modern coins having been already largely discussed, in a recent work by the Assayers of this Mint, it will only be necessary here to call attention to a few of the more curious specimens.

UNITED STATES. In this series we have the interesting suite of Massachusetts silver coins, of the date of 1652; the silver coins of Cecil, Lord Baltimore, struck about ten years later; the colonial brass coins of the Carolinas, and the copper of Virginia; the variety of copper coins struck by the states after the treaty of peace, and before the adoption of the constitution; a very remarkable gold coin, equal in value to a doubloon, coined at New York in 1787; the Washington cent of 1791, of two varieties or reverses, (coined by one Hancock, at Birmingham, in England, but at whose instance cannot be ascertained; it was, however, disapproved of,) and a larger copper coin, bearing the head of Washington and the date of 1792,

from a die which was also used in re-stamping half-crowns, the enterprise of some individual.* Next come the trial-pieces of the infant national mint; among which, as it was patronised by the President, though not actually coined in the mint, may be counted the "half-disme" bearing the legend, "Liberty, Parent of Science and Industry." In 1794, the mint began to be in regular operation; and we have specimens (though the series is not complete) of the mintage of every year. There is a little variation in the devices of the coins, as far as to 1808; but from that date to 1834, (excepting a change in the quarter dollar, in 1833,) there is an undisturbed uniformity, which, if it be desirable in a commercial view, makes but a dull exhibition. At that time, however, the standard of the gold coin was changed, and a modification of device became necessary; and after the public taste had recovered from its alarm at the removal of "E pluribus unum," it was less difficult to progress in the path of change and improvement. The year 1836 was remarka-

* We have some other copper coins, of various sizes, bearing the head of Washington, but as they are evidently mere fancy-pieces, of private issue, it has not been thought worth while to give them a place among the authorized coins.

ble for new patterns and projects. It was supposed that Liberty might be symbolized by other forms than the matronly bust, and that the eagle might change its perch. Hence we have the famous new dollar of that year. There was also produced, obedient to calls of committees of Congress, the gold dollar, and the two cent billon piece, the latter being a mixture in which two cents' worth of silver was contained, or lost, in a sizeable proportion of copper; but neither was approved. Further varieties, especially in the half-dollar, appear in 1837; and in 1838 there are a number of half-dollar trial-pieces, none of which were adopted. In that year the gold eagle reappears; and all the gold coin is in a new dress. The silver dollars continue very scarce until 1840, when the flying eagle is discontinued; and the entire coinage remains unaltered from that date to the present. (Some material changes are, however, in contemplation.)

At the end of the United States series are placed specimens of the private gold coinage of Bechtler, of North Carolina, and Reid, of Georgia; the former is still carried on. There are also the silver coins of Chalmers, of Annapolis, 1783, and a guinea re-struck with the die "Immune Columbia," and bearing the same date.

GREAT BRITAIN. The coins of this country are generally considered as the next in interest to our own, by American collectors. Our series is far from being complete, though it contains a number of interesting and rare pieces. The most remarkable in gold are, the noble of Henry VI. ; ryal of Elizabeth ; (this fine broad piece, in perfect preservation, was selected from a deposit for recoinage, and of course cost only its bullion value ;) five-guinea piece of Charles II., value \$25 35 ; and five-pound piece of George IV., 1826, of exquisite workmanship. Of silver coins, we have a few Saxon and early Norman pennies, (those of William the Conqueror being of the number dug up at Beaworth, Hampshire, in 1833 ; they are of various mints, and in the best preservation,) also a tolerable succession of silver coins down to Anne ; from whose time both gold and silver are sufficiently complete. We have but few copper coins, except from George III. downward. The curious series of copper tokens issued about the close of the last century, and of silver ones current during the suspension of specie payments, dating 1804 to 1815, are tolerably complete.

FRANCE. Of French coins we have one, of the Merovingian line, very rare ; the only one older

than the base silver of Charles VIII., 1483-98; the series is pretty full from about 1700.

GERMANY. The gold ducat of the Emperor Frederick IV, 1452-93, is our oldest coin; there are a good many of the seventeenth century, and a good collection of those since 1700. As every petty state and free city coins its own money, their number being also greater in former times than at present, the collection and discrimination of German specimens is, or may be made, an interminable business.

About fifty gold coins, generally ducats and halves, in perfect order, came in one parcel for recoinage, and were rescued from the furnace. They are old and curious; some of them being marriage and baptismal tokens, with piquant verses in German; as, for instance, one on which the ceremony of baptism is portrayed, and under it the legend *Dis Wasser bad, Gibt heil und gnad*: "this water-bath gives holiness and grace." One of the pieces, from its symbols, appears to be a medal of the secret order of Rosicrucians. (These coins are in the large case.)

PORTUGAL. Here is the five-moidore piece of 1725, worth \$32 70; the largest of gold coins.

There is a good series of *Joannese*, or “half-joes,” formerly well known in our currency; the silver and copper are also well represented. The same is true of the kindred series of Brazil, in the same case.

SPAIN. All those coins which were struck in America, though bearing royal insignia, are to be found in the case labelled “Spanish-American.” There is a good modern series of Spanish proper. Two dollars, siege-pieces of 1808–9, are remarkable.

RUSSIA. The golden half rouble, worth only 37 cents, the platina coins, and the immense copper pieces here attract most notice.

TUSCANY, ETC. The silver coins of the Medici family, from 1575 downward, were obtained as bullion, and are in fine keeping.—A scudo of Paul V., 1620, is our oldest Papal coin.—We have, among the Neapolitan, the coins of Joseph Napoleon, and Joachim Murat, which, though recent, are scarce.

The SPANISH AMERICAN suite is very full, and well preserved. Here are all the varieties of the

famous gold *doubloon*, and silver *dollar*. (The quarter cob-doubloon, No. 5, an old piece, was lately picked up by a schoolboy, on a heap of rubbish, near Fairmount; and from its appearance at the time, was taken for a bit of iron. It may have lain there half a century.)

The OTTOMAN collection represents nearly every reign, from that of Murad I., who died in 1389.

Of the ASIATIC coins, attention will be given to the gold toman of Bokhara, a very inaccessible sort of coin; the bullet-shaped *tical* of Siam; and the various and singular fashions of Japanese coins. The gold *cobang*, for instance, though it measures two and a half inches by one and a half, is worth only \$6.50 intrinsically; it is very thin. The silver coin is interesting from its adventures. A party of Japanese were picked up by our Exploring Expedition, far out in the Pacific Ocean, where they drifted in an open boat, and were almost starved. Their gratitude prompted them to make presents of some silver coins which they had with them. Of these specimens, every one was subsequently lost in the destruction of the Peacock, except this piece, which happened to be in the pocket of an officer, on board another vessel.

The last specimen which we shall notice, is that of a cluster of dollars, mixed with marine shells and deposits, and cemented upon a cannon-ball. This phenomenon is from the bottom of the ocean, and its history (copied from the Bulletin of the American Philosophical Society for 1845), is as follows :

“ Early in 1815, a naval armament was fitted out in Spain, by Ferdinand VII., for the purpose of reducing the rebellious colonies in South America. The military force of this expedition amounted to ten thousand men, of whom two thousand were on board the flag-ship San Pedro. This vessel was also freighted, to a large amount, with gunpowder, cannon-balls, and specie. The fleet touched at the island of Marguerita, near the coast of Venezuela, where, with a variety of other plunder, the San Pedro took on board eight casks of spirits. Having left the island, and making for the main land, which was within six hours’ sail, the vessel was discovered to be on fire. The flame, however, was in a fair way of being extinguished, when the steward incautiously opened one of the vessels containing ardent spirits to refresh the hands. The fire, by some accident, came in contact with the rum, and instantly the flame spread so far as to become unmanageable. The ship burnt four hours, until the powder magazine was reached by the fire, when an explosion took place, and the wreck went down, involving in its destruction the lives of four hundred men.

“ The right of working the wreck having not long since been granted by the government of Venezuela to a company of gentlemen in Baltimore, designated as the ‘ San Pedro Company,’ measures were taken to recover the specie, and other valuables known to have been on board, and a vessel, with diving-bell and workmen, was sent out

in February last. The wreck was found sunk in sixty feet water, and four or five miles from the main land. It was also found that the vessel had rested on a hard bed of coral; on this (subsequently to the catastrophe), a layer of thick mud was deposited; and over this was grown another stratum of coral, which has to be pierced to arrive at the remains of the ship.

“The diving-bell (which is five feet diameter and five feet high) is sent down three or four times a day, with two labourers, who remain down about two hours at a time. During the past season they have brought up a quantity of copper, in various shapes, besides cannon-balls, &c.; and Spanish dollars, the recoinage of which at the Mint has produced about \$18,500. The silver has been much corroded by the action of *sulphur*, which is supposed to have occurred from the usual precaution of placing the specie in the powder magazine. This has occasioned a diminution in value of 7 or 8 per cent., that is, the dollars average 92 or 93 cents each; but the *variation* of loss is very great, as some are found worth 98 cents, and one, with the stamps still visible, was reduced to 34 cents in value. They are all too much spoiled for currency, though in most cases the impressions are very distinct.”

EXPLANATION
OF THE
ENGRAVED PLATE.

No. 1. Head and reverse of a silver denarius of republican Rome. **R.** Castor and Pollux (the two dioscouri) on horseback.

No. 2. Denarius of Augustus Cæsar. **R.** The letters S. P. Q. R. OB. CIV. within a wreath, and below SERVATOS. "The Senate and people of Rome [give thanks to the emperor] for preserving the citizens."

No. 3. Denarius of Maximian Hercules, colleague of Diocletian. **R.** A ground-plan of a military camp, and legend VIRTUS MILITUM. "Courage of the soldiers."

No. 4. Gold bezant of Nicephorus II. Obv., the head of Christ surrounded by a nimbus, with the legend IHS. XRS. REX REGNANTIUM. "Jesus Christ, King of kings." **R.** The emperor and Virgin, holding between them a double cross; titles of the emperor in the legend. This is one

of the finest specimens of Byzantine coin, and does not indicate the general rudeness of that class.

No. 5. Silver tetradrachm of Corinth. Obv., head of Minerva. R. Pegasus, the winged horse. This coin is equal to any in the ancient collection, for fine workmanship.

No. 6. Small silver coin of Parium, Greek Republic. Only the head side shown. This front face, drawn up with laughter, gives some idea of the fantastic devices which often mark the coinage of republican Greece.

No. 7. Head side of a hemidrachm of Menander, King of Bactria.

No. 8. Head side of a drachm of Phraates III., of Persia.

No. 9. Head of a drachm of Gotzares, of Persia.

No. 10. Drachm of Alexander the Great. Obv., the head of Alexander, personating his fabled ancestor Hercules, clothed in a lion's skin. R. The figure of Jupiter, seated, and holding an eagle, with the legend ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ.

No. 11. Obverse of a shekel of Simon Maccabeus, showing the budding rod of Aaron. See page 123, No. 101.

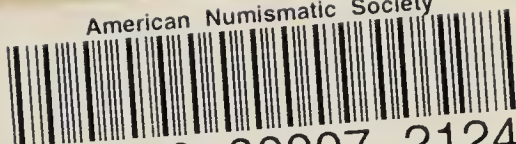
No. 12. Large silver coin of a king of the Sassanian dynasty of Persia. See page 120.

N. B. This frontispiece is a contribution from Mr. SAXTON, late of the Mint, now of the Bureau of Weights and Measures, Washington, by whose exquisite machine it was ruled; and from Mr. LONGACRE, Engraver of the Mint, who attended to the finishing process. It may be added, that engravings of this kind are seen to most advantage in a strong light.

THE END.



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